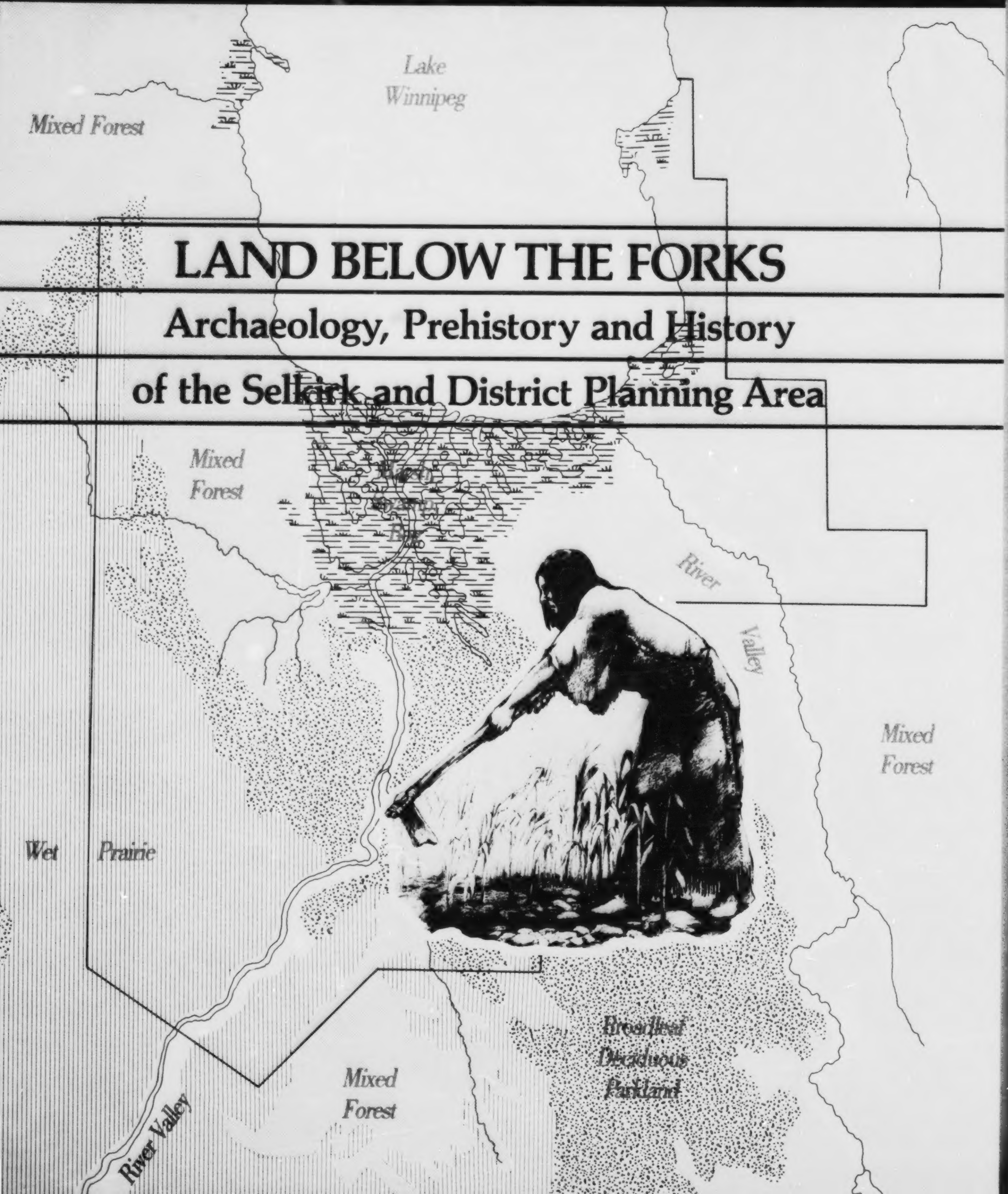
Manitoba
Culture Heritage
and Recreation
Historic Resources

LAND BELOW THE FORKS

Archaeology, Prehistory and History of the Selkirk and District Planning Area


Lake Winnipeg
Mixed Forest
Mixed Forest
River Valley
Mixed Forest
Wet Prairie
Broadleaf Deciduous Parkland
Mixed Forest
River Valley

LAND BELOW THE FORKS

ARCHAEOLOGY, PREHISTORY AND HISTORY OF THE SELKIRK AND DISTRICT PLANNING AREA

K. David McLeod
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There are several individuals who offered invaluable assistance throughout the course of the field study and who deserve recognition. I would like to thank my research assistant, Graham Walker, whose youthful exhuberance and keen interest in Manitoba archaeology helped the project to run smoothly and effectively. I would also like to thank Pat Badertscher and Barb Eros, who helped excavate at St. Peter's Church. Pat also assisted me with the pre-impact assessment study at the Red River Crossing, situated north of St. Peter's Church.

Ed Loginsky, councillor in the Rural Municipality of St. Andrews, took time out of his busy schedule on several occasions to accompany us in our field work and introduced us to a number of landowners and site informants. I greatly appreciated this effort by Mr. Loginsky. Mr. Leslie Price, staff at the R.M. of St. Andrews office, and Mr. Adam Kulikowsky and his staff at the St. Clements municipal office, also helped us with our research by contacting specific landowners.

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I would like to thank the Right Reverend Walter H. Jones, Bishop of the Archdiocese of Rupertsland and the Reverend Robert Brownlie, Priest-in-charge at St. Peter's Church for allowing us to excavate at St. Peter's. The excavation helped us to study an early period in the history of the St. Peter's area.

The A.R.C. Authority Inc. granted us permission to examine some of their sites along River Road during 1984, and I am thankful to the A.R.C. Authority for providing us this privilege.

Several individuals also offered their assistance once the field research component of the study was completed and the drafting of the following report was commenced. The information on the prehistory of the Lockport and Larter sites and the paragraphs on pages 41-44 that relate to the early agriculturalists of Lockport were provided by Dr. Buchner, who also read portions of this text and offered his comments.

Russell Epp and his brother David allowed Historic Resources Branch personnel to photograph artifacts from their collection and these illustrations are used throughout the Prehistory section of the text. This courtesy is greatly appreciated, as it allowed the Branch to illustrate heritage objects recovered from the Selkirk area rather than having to use illustrations of objects from outside of the planning area.

I would like to thank Leo Pettipas, Chief Archaeologist, and Gary Dickson, Assistant Archaeologist, Historic Resources Branch, who assisted me throughout all facets of the planning district study. I am further indebted to Leo Pettipas for his editorial assistance, and to Joan Wachs, who typed the final version of the text and who had to endure the perculiarities of my writing style and manner. My wife Katherine patiently listened to all the trials and tribulations of conducting a planning district archaeological survey, and for her moral support I am grateful.

Finally, I would like to dedicate the following report to the people of the Selkirk and District Planning Area. Hopefully, the information contained in this book will either stimulate and/or strengthen their cultural heritage awareness not only of the Selkirk area, but of Manitoba as well.

OVERVIEW

This report summarizes the archaeological information obtained from the 1984 Selkirk and District Planning Area Archaeological Survey. The project was conducted by the Historic Resources Branch of Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Recreation as part of the Branch's ongoing, long-range program of archaeological site inventory in Manitoba.

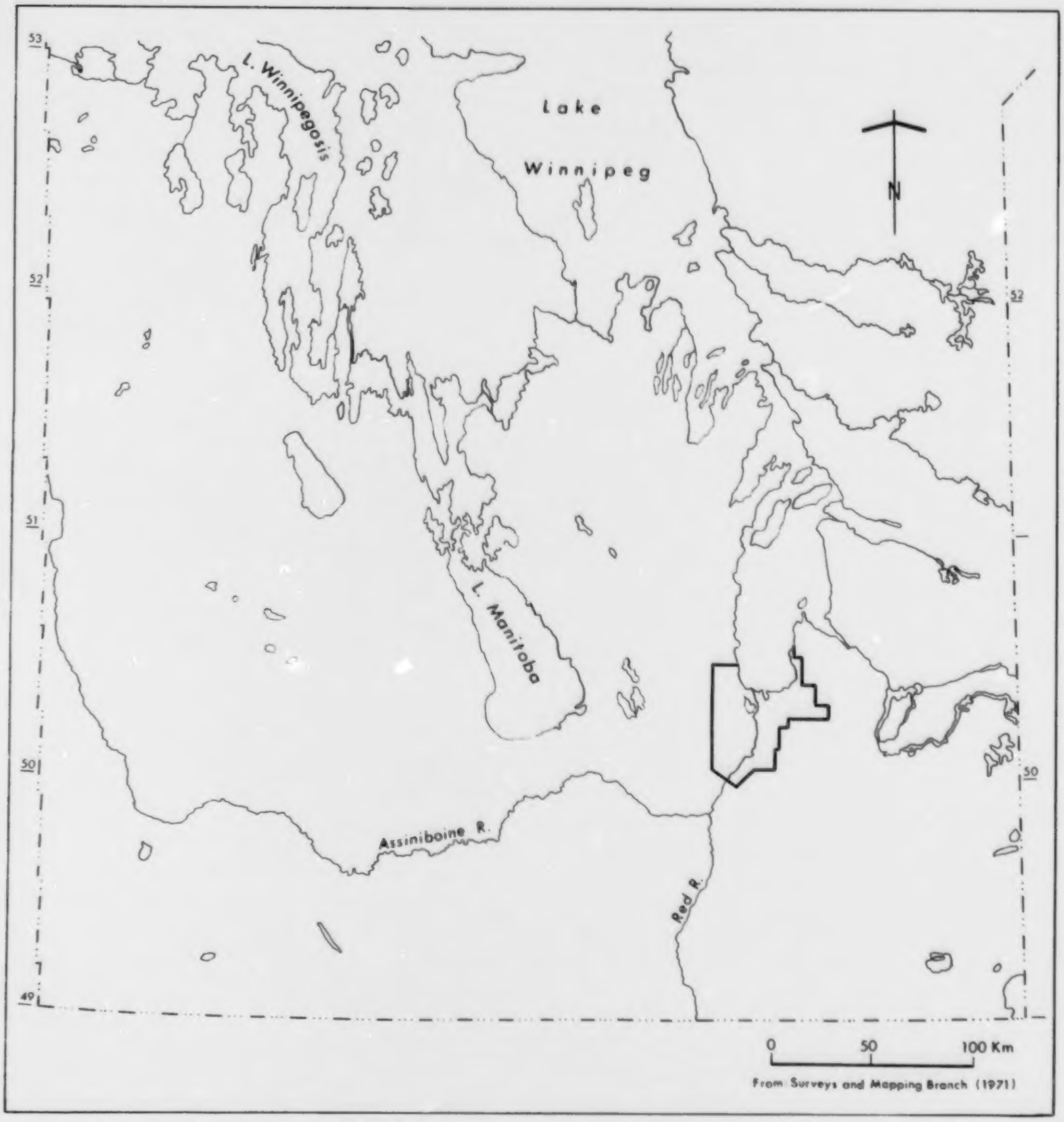
The Selkirk and District Planning Area was formed in 1977 and includes the Town of Selkirk, the Village of Dunnotar and the rural municipalities of St. Andrews and St. Clements. The planning board established guidelines and programs pertaining to the use and development of land and other resources within the specified area, and identified relevant factors and critical problems that also pertained to land use. The objectives of the development plan are: (1) to make agriculture the primary land use in the district; (2) to allow limited rural residential development and other non-agricultural land uses; (3) to enhance the Town of Selkirk as the focal point of urban development in the district; (4) to protect and manage the natural resources in the district; (5) to protect heritage sites and historical buildings; and (6) to protect the extractive resources of the area for further use.

The objectives of the Historic Resources Branch within the planning district are: (1) to identify sites that have historical or archaeological significance; (2) to protect these sites from uses or activities that will jeopardize their preservation; (3) to establish a method to determine the quality and historical significance of sites and structures; and (4) to establish policies to protect these sites and structures.

In support of the above objectives, an archaeological survey was conducted within most of the planning district in the summer of 1984. The specific objectives of this survey were: (1) to identify heritage resources in the area for management and planning purposes; and (2) to promote community awareness and involvement in the programs of Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Recreation.

This report is a discussion of the results of the 1984 survey through a summary of the cultural history of the planning area. The discussion incorporates the survey findings with information obtained from previous research by other individuals or agencies in the area, and also with information that has been produced for the entire province of Manitoba. In this manner, the cultural history of the planning area is integrated within that of the province as a whole.

This manuscript can be used in conjunction with two earlier publications distributed by the Historic Resources Branch: Introducing Manitoba Archaeology and Introducing Manitoba Prehistory, published in 1983. These earlier publications provide a general background for the Selkirk area report. It is not to be construed, however, that the two introductory books must be obtained prior to reading this report. Rather, they should be regarded as companion volumes that explain in greater detail the terms and names referred to below. An introductory chapter is included in this report to provide basic information pertaining to archaeology in Manitoba as conducted by the Historic Resources Branch.


L. Winnipegosis
Lake
Winnipeg
N
L. Manitoba
Assiniboine R.
Red R.
53
52
51
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49
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50
0
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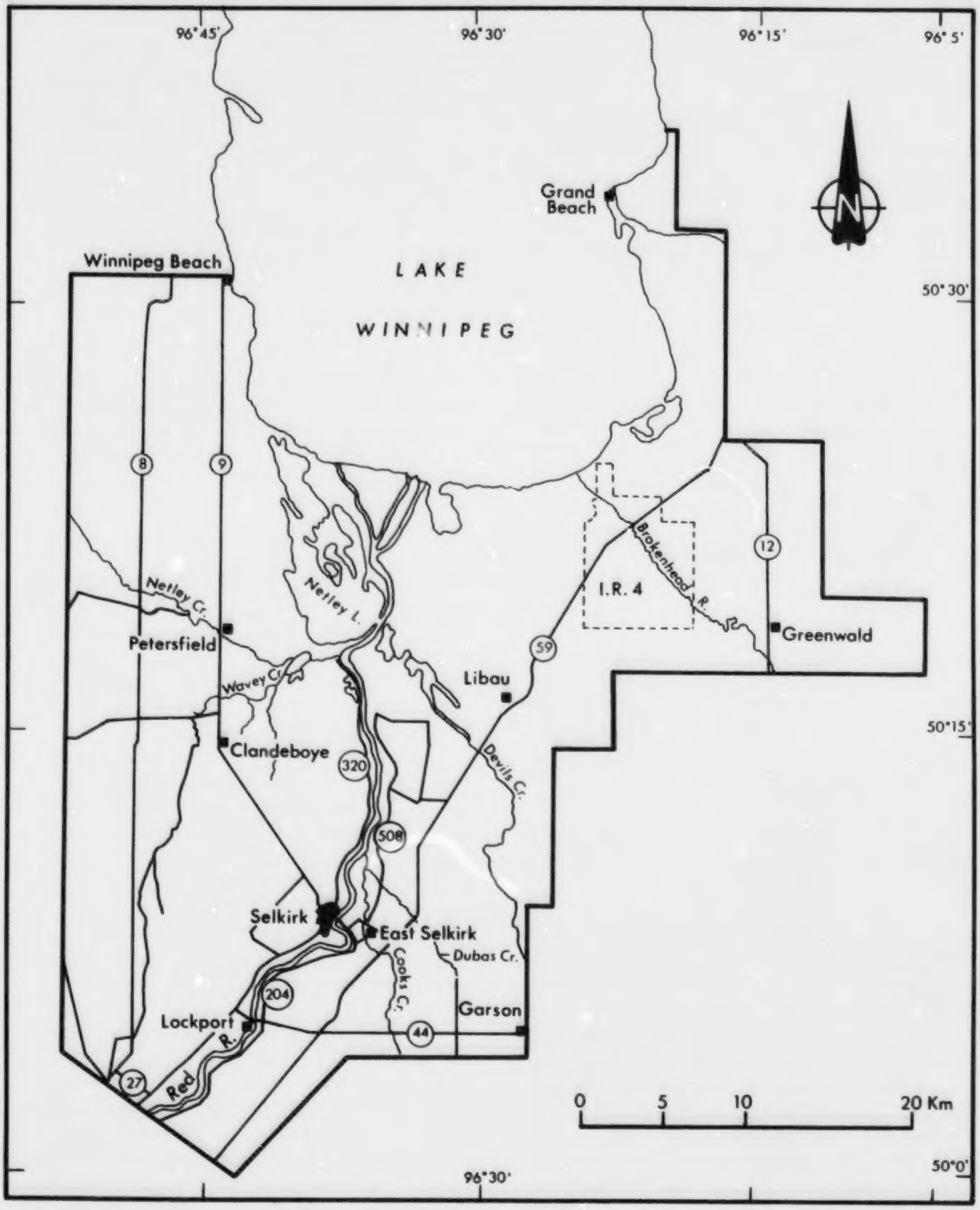
100 Km

From Surveys and Mapping Branch (1971)

Southern Manitoba, showing the location of the Selkirk and District Planning Area.


96°45'
96°30'
96°15'
96°5'
N
Grand Beach
LAKE WINNIPEG
Winnipeg Beach
50°30'
8
9
Netley Cr.
Netley L.
Petersfield
Wavey Cr.
I.R. 4
Brokenhead R.
12
Greenwald
59
Libau
50°15'
Clandeboye
320
Devils Cr.
508
Selkirk
East Selkirk
Dubas Cr.
Cooks Cr.
204
Garson
Lockport
44
27
Red R.
0
5
10
20 Km
96°30'
50°0'

The Selkirk and District Planning Area.

INTRODUCTION

Aims of Archaeology

Archaeology is a sub-field of Anthropology -- the study of people and their ways of life, or "cultures". It follows, therefore, that archaeology is the study of people and culture from times past. There are three major goals or objectives of archaeology:

1. The determination of culture history, or chronology. Basically, the goal here is to establish the sequence of cultures that came and went within a given region, and within the province as a whole;

2. The reconstruction of past lifeways. Here we seek to recreate the lifestyles of the peoples whose cultures formed the culture history mentioned above in (1);

3. The determination and explanation of change and/or stability exhibited by the cultural sequence -- here we ask why cultures changed (or remained essentially unchanged, if such is the case).

This report deals with the first two objectives.

Archaeology has been divided into two sub-fields: prehistoric and historic. Prehistoric archaeology deals exclusively with Native people who lived from the earliest inhabitable period in North America until the arrival of the Europeans. In Manitoba, the beginning of the Prehistoric Period varies in different parts of the province, depending on when the glaciers and glacial lakes receded to create habitable land. The Prehistoric Period in the Selkirk and District Planning Area began about 6500 BC and ended c. 1650.

Archaeological Methods

Fulfillment of the three goals of archaeology requires the examination and analysis of "artifacts". An artifact is any object produced by humans, either through use or by intentional modification, of a natural substance or material. Artifacts are usually discarded or lost in areas where past human activities have occurred. These discarded and lost materials, their relationship to one another, and their position within the enclosing soil and geological deposits, are referred to as the "archaeological record". Former activity areas are usually referred to as archaeological "sites", and it is the study of artifacts from sites, called site "assemblages", that enables the archaeologist to accomplish the three major goals of archaeology.

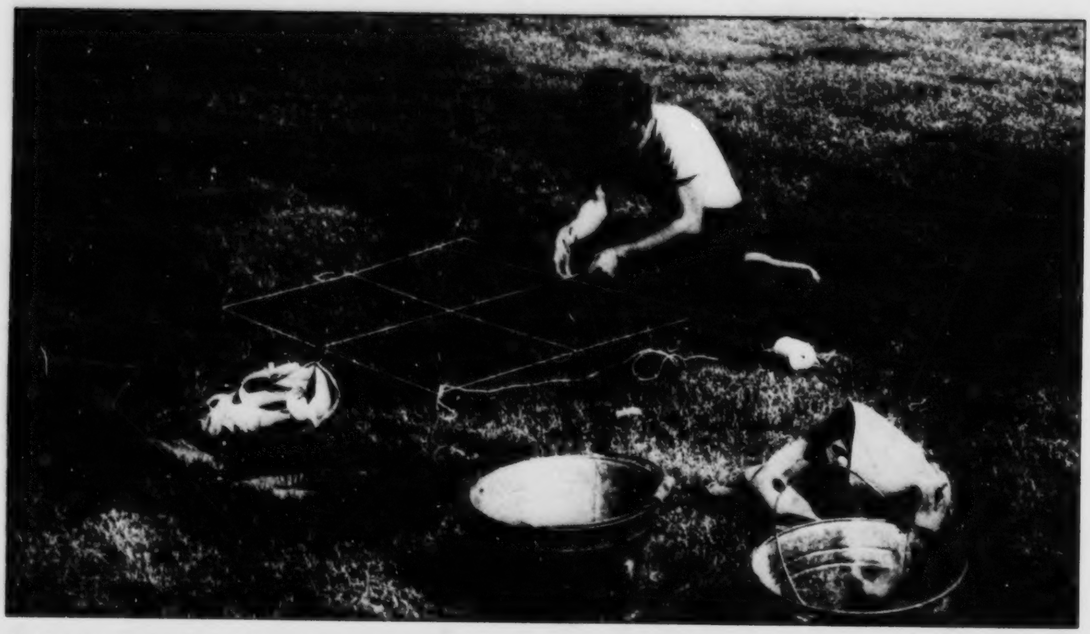
Artifacts are valuable due to the cultural information, or "data", that they offer. Artifactual data may indicate when and for how long a particular site was inhabited. Concentrations of certain kinds of artifacts can often reveal the type of activity or activities that occurred at a particular site, or within part of a site. As a result, information dealing with the distribution of artifacts, both horizontal and vertical, is extremely important. The presence of different kinds of artifacts might be taken to represent corresponding differences in social status of individuals, or economic practices, or perhaps family size.

Due to the diverse information obtained from artifacts and their distribution within a site, methods of artifact discovery and recording are very important to archaeological studies. Two basic methods are used to collect artifacts: surface collection and excavation. Surface collection is an initial means of finding and recording a site. Depending upon the objectives of

Surface-collecting across a fallow field north of St. Peter's Church.

the particular archaeological research, surface collection can vary from the gathering of only those artifacts that are distinctive of a certain period of time, to collection in preselected or "random" areas across a site, to a controlled collection of the entire site whereby the location of each artifact is recorded prior to removal from the surface of the ground.

Archaeological excavation makes use of either "shovel test units" or "block excavation units". An archaeological "unit" is simply the hole dug by the archaeologist to allow for a larger and perhaps more meaningful sample of artifacts to be obtained from a particular site. Shovel tests are often made following surface collection to determine if there are additional artifacts below the surface. If additional material is located in the shovel tests, then larger units of excavation are often conducted. These are called block excavation units and usually measure one or two metres square.



Fieldworker measuring in a 1-metre-square excavation unit as part of the Selkirk and District Planning Area Archaeological Survey.

An example of several adjacent excavation units dug to expose a large area of the Lockport Site.

The first stage in analysis is the cleaning and cataloguing of the artifacts. Here, a researcher is cataloguing a surface collection by marking the particular site Borden number on each artifact.

The analysis of artifacts acquired through surface collection and excavation usually takes place in a laboratory soon after the archaeologist has left the research area. Analytical techniques involve the identification of the artifacts, usually according to their supposed use or function, and an estimation of their age based on comparison of the artifacts with those found elsewhere. Following analysis, research reports are written to explain the methods, results and conclusions of the particular study.

The above paragraphs describe how artifacts and sites are studied. The following report on the archaeology of the Selkirk district is an example of the product of these labours.

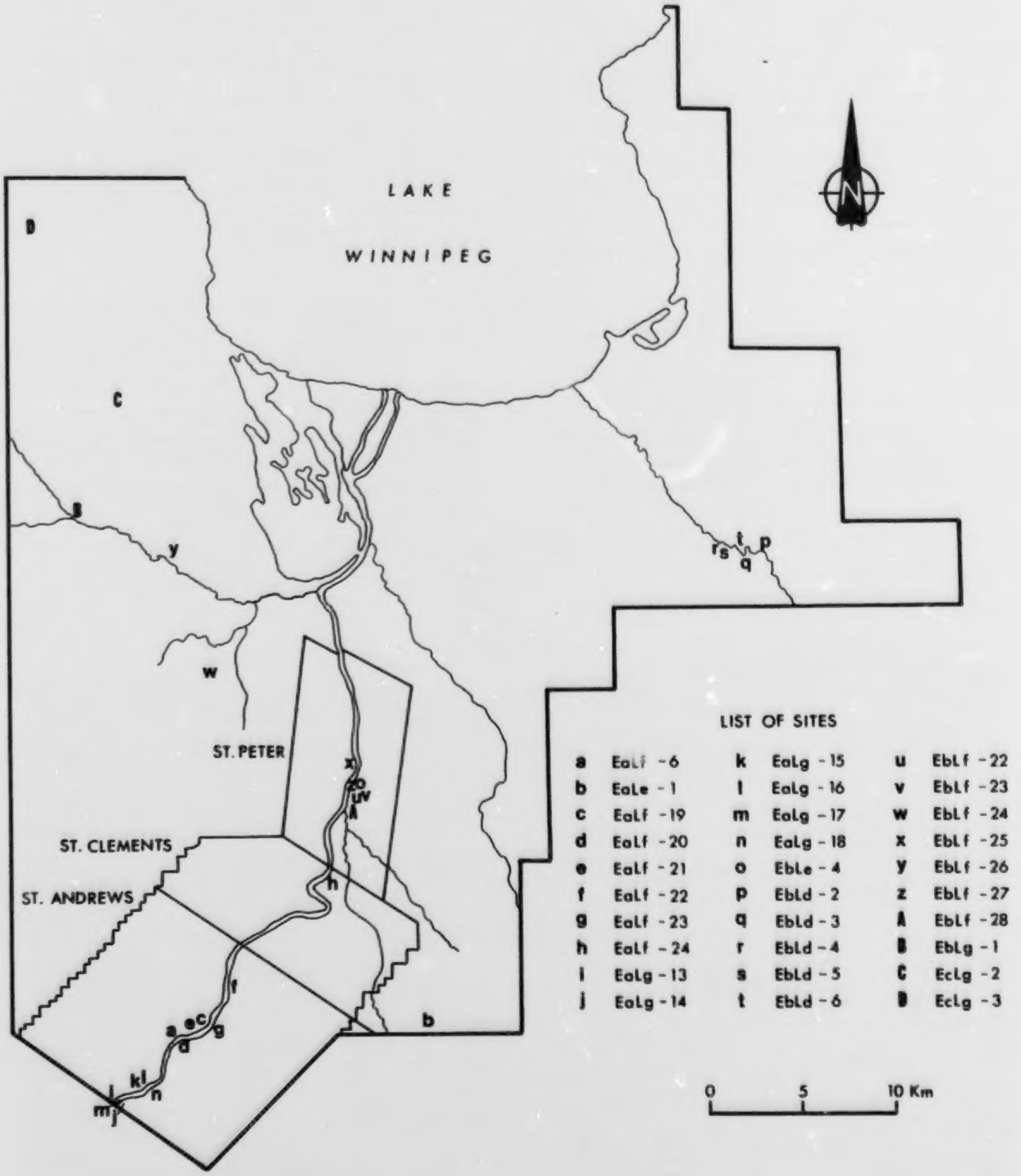
SURVEY METHODS IN THE SELKIRK AND DISTRICT PLANNING AREA

This section outlines the specific methods and results of the 1984 survey in the Selkirk area. The processes of contacting landowners, surface collection techniques, excavation methods, and the results of the survey are discussed.

Survey Methods

Previous surveys indicated that examination of virtually any open area along the Red River would yield an archaeological site. It was therefore decided to begin the 1984 survey in a locality as yet unstudied, and the northwest corner of the district was selected. Local residents were contacted, either by letter or directly by the project archaeologists, and informed about the survey project.

Typical fallow field along the east bank of the Red River.


LAKE WINNIPEG
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ST. PETER
ST. CLEMENTS
ST. ANDREWS
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k l
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i
m
j
b
r s t q p
N
0
5
10 Km

LIST OF SITES

a	EaLf - 6	k	EaLg - 15	u	EbLf - 22
b	EaLe - 1	l	EaLg - 16	v	EbLf - 23
c	EaLf - 19	m	EaLg - 17	w	EbLf - 24
d	EaLf - 20	n	EaLg - 18	x	EbLf - 25
e	EaLf - 21	o	EbLe - 4	y	EbLf - 26
f	EaLf - 22	p	EbLd - 2	z	EbLf - 27
g	EaLf - 23	q	EbLd - 3	A	EbLf - 28
h	EaLf - 24	r	EbLd - 4	B	EbLg - 1
i	EaLg - 13	s	EbLd - 5	C	EcLg - 2
j	EaLg - 14	t	EbLd - 6	D	EcLg - 3

Sites Identified in the 1984 Selkirk and District Planning Area Survey.

They were then asked if they had ever found any archaeological material on their property. Although effective, these contact methods were too time-consuming to permit an adequate study of the entire district. As a result, survey methods were modified and only selected areas west of the Red River and outside of the parish river lot system were examined. These areas were primarily along the small creeks that meandered through the planning area.

Similar survey methods were used in the eastern half of the district, where initial reconnaissance was conducted along the Brokenhead River and in higher elevated areas northeast of Greenwald. Limited access and residential development restricted the size of area that could be examined along the east shore of Lake Winnipeg.

Most of the archaeological sites recorded during the 1984 survey were located adjacent to the banks of the Red River. All areas along the river are either under cultivation or have been commercially or residentially developed. Therefore, each fallow field that could be examined along the river, was.

Virtually all sites recorded during 1984 were designated on the basis of surface-collected material. Surface collection was conducted by walking in straight lines across a plowed field. It was assumed that any isolated finds found in a partially sampled field were indicative of other

Sod being carefully removed in excavations during the Selkirk and District Planning Area Archaeological Survey.

cultural material contained throughout the area. Little or no subsurface testing, either by shovel tests or block excavation, was conducted at the identified sites. The extent of disturbance at these sites due to plowing is not accurately known, although studies from elsewhere have indicated that the degree of horizontal movement is not as significant as may be assumed. Recent studies have suggested that a number of factors must be considered when dealing with assemblages from plowed fields. First, the direction which the agricultural equipment followed when moving over the site is of importance, as this may cause the surface artifacts to be spread in a particular direction. Secondly, the number of times the equipment passed over the site must be taken into consideration, as continued cultivation over an extended period of time will affect site materials more than those instances where limited agricultural activity has occurred. Also, the characteristics of the artifacts themselves can have a large bearing on the ultimate condition of the site. Characteristics that must be considered are size, shape and density of artifacts, as well as the degree to which they are concentrated over the surface of the site. A final consideration is the frequency and relative proportions of different-sized artifacts. Larger artifacts tend to be displaced from the area of original deposition by agricultural machinery, while smaller artifacts are usually buried and therefore materials collected solely from the surface may not be representative of the site as a whole.

Shovel tests being excavated as part of the impact study at the Red River crossing north of Selkirk.

Based on artifacts recovered throughout the planning district, it was evident that continued agricultural activities have affected the nature of certain artifact types within the surface assemblages in two manners: (1) a gradual reduction in the size of fragile artifacts such as ceramics, bottle glass, and clay tobacco pipes; and (2) a greater tendency for vertical rather than horizontal artifact displacement.

Excavations were conducted at three sites within the planning district: at St. Peter's-Dynevor Church, at a site north of St. Peter's Church, and along Wavey Creek. Archaeology at St. Peter's Church consisted of two block excavation units placed in one of a series of cellar depressions north of the stone church. The second site was an impact study in connection with the proposed Red River Crossing north of Selkirk. Here, investigations consisted of controlled surface collection as well as shovel tests. Excavations along Wavey Creek included a series of shovel tests along the south bank of Wavey Creek and along the west bank of Medicine Creek, opposite a previously identified site.

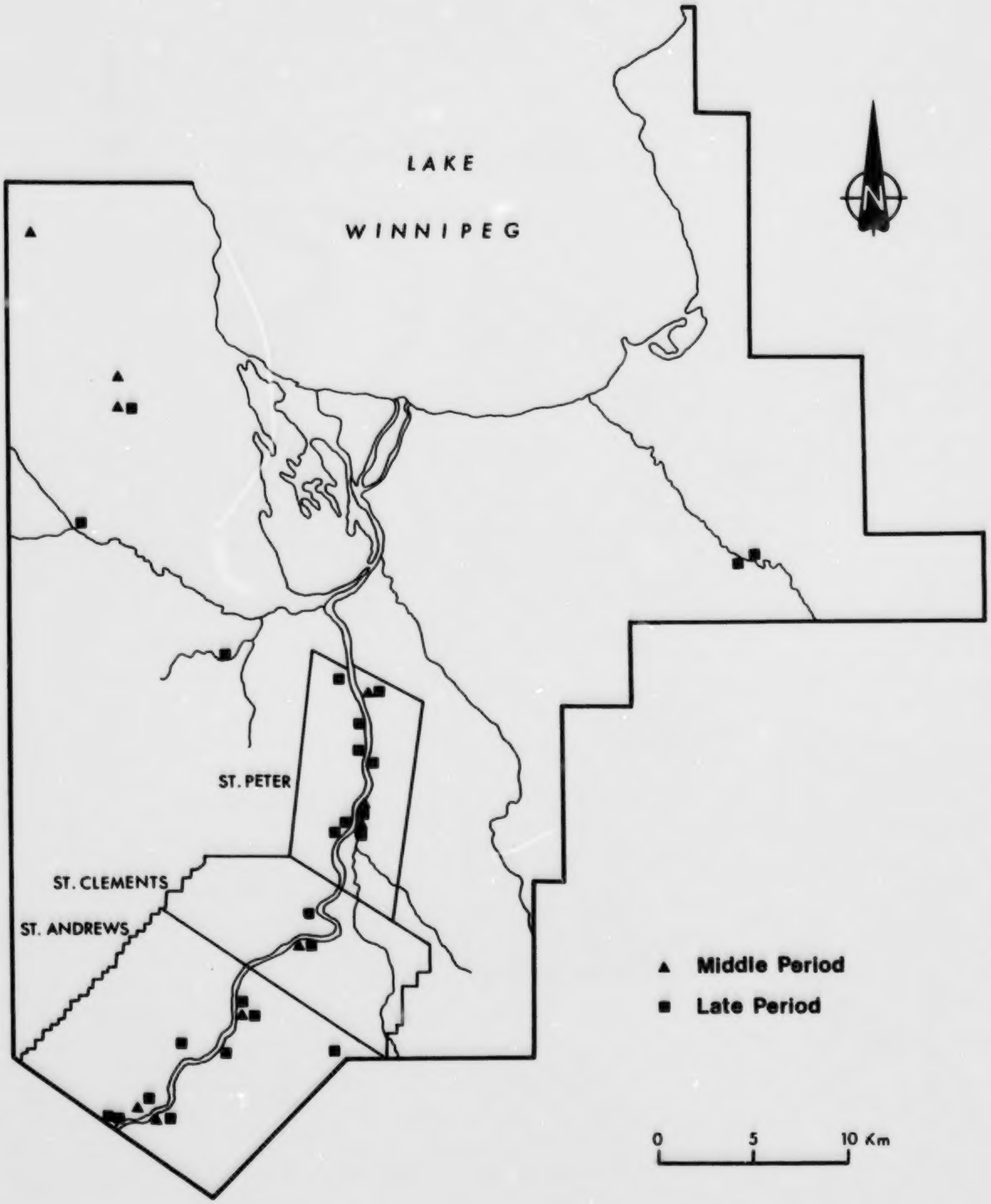
Survey Results

A total of 31 sites and eight private collections were recorded during the 1984 survey. The following map shows the location of the recorded sites throughout the district using the "Borden designation" of each site. The Borden system for denoting archaeological sites in Canada was devised by the late Charles Borden. Borden's system is based upon a site's geographical location within a grid that is superimposed upon 1:50,000 National Topographic Series maps of the entire country. Each segment of the grid is termed a "Borden Block", consisting of ten minutes (10') of latitude and ten minutes (10') of longitude, and is identified by a combination of upper and lower case letters that are specific for the block, e.g., EaLf. Archaeological sites within the block are numbered in the chronological order of their being reported.

The following two figures indicate where the sites shown in the foregoing map fall within the Prehistoric and Historic chronologies outlined in the following chapters.

Sites were extremely variable in terms of size and the number and kinds of artifacts present. Most of the sites were either "multi-component" (that is, they had been utilized by several cultural groups through time), or "multi-occupational" (people of the same culture repeatedly used the site over a long period of time).

The information from the sites and private collections recorded in 1984, together with the data from previous research, form the basis for the following culture history chapters.


LAKE
WINNIPEG
N
ST. PETER
ST. CLEMENTS
ST. ANDREWS
▲ Middle Period
■ Late Period
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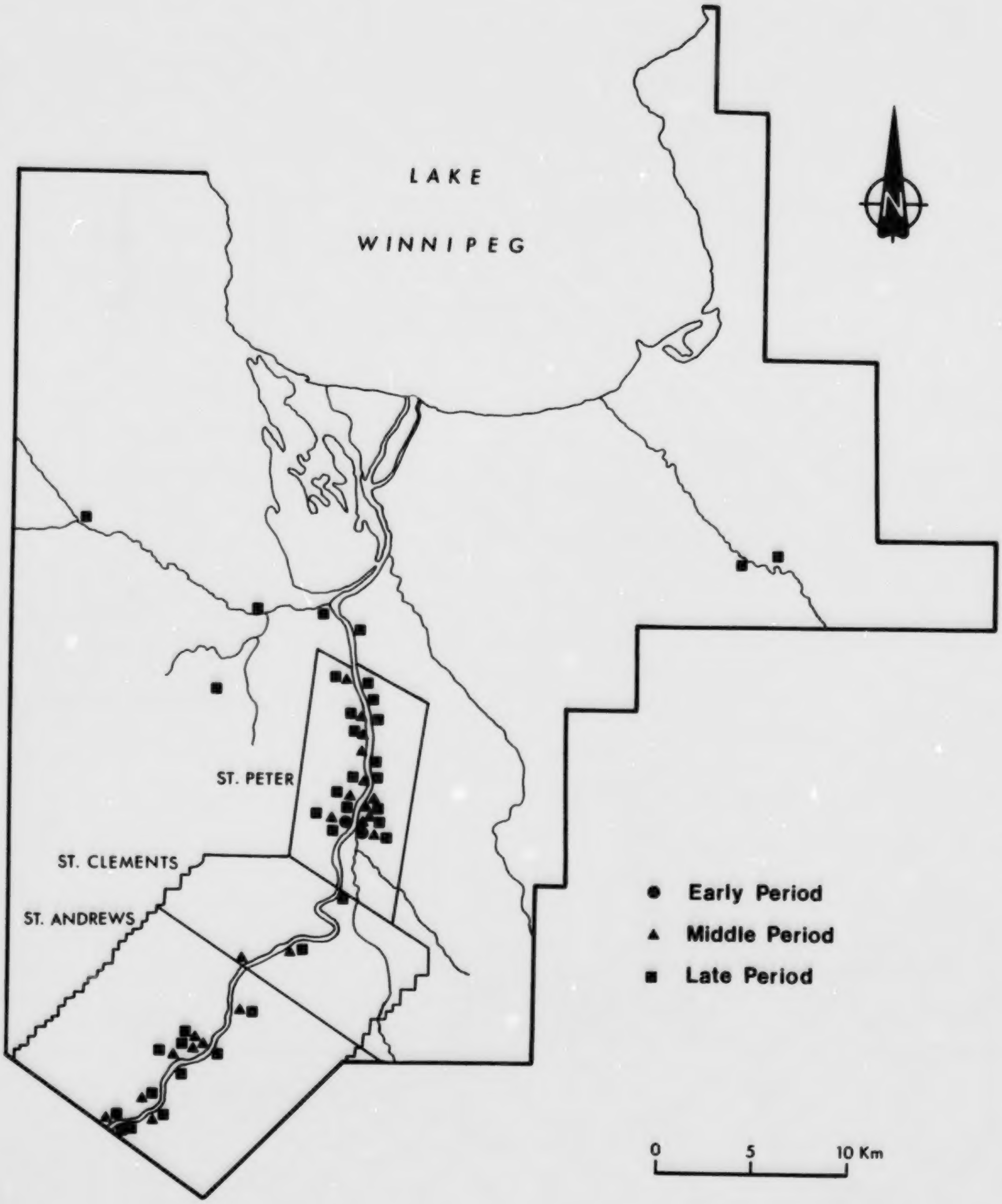
10 Km

Middle and Late Prehistoric sites in the Selkirk and District Planning Area.


LAKE
WINNIPEG
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ST. PETER
ST. CLEMENTS
ST. ANDREWS
● Early Period
▲ Middle Period
■ Late Period
0
5
10 Km

Early, Middle and Late Historic sites in the Selkirk and District Planning Area.

THE ENVIRONMENT OF THE SELKIRK AND DISTRICT PLANNING AREA

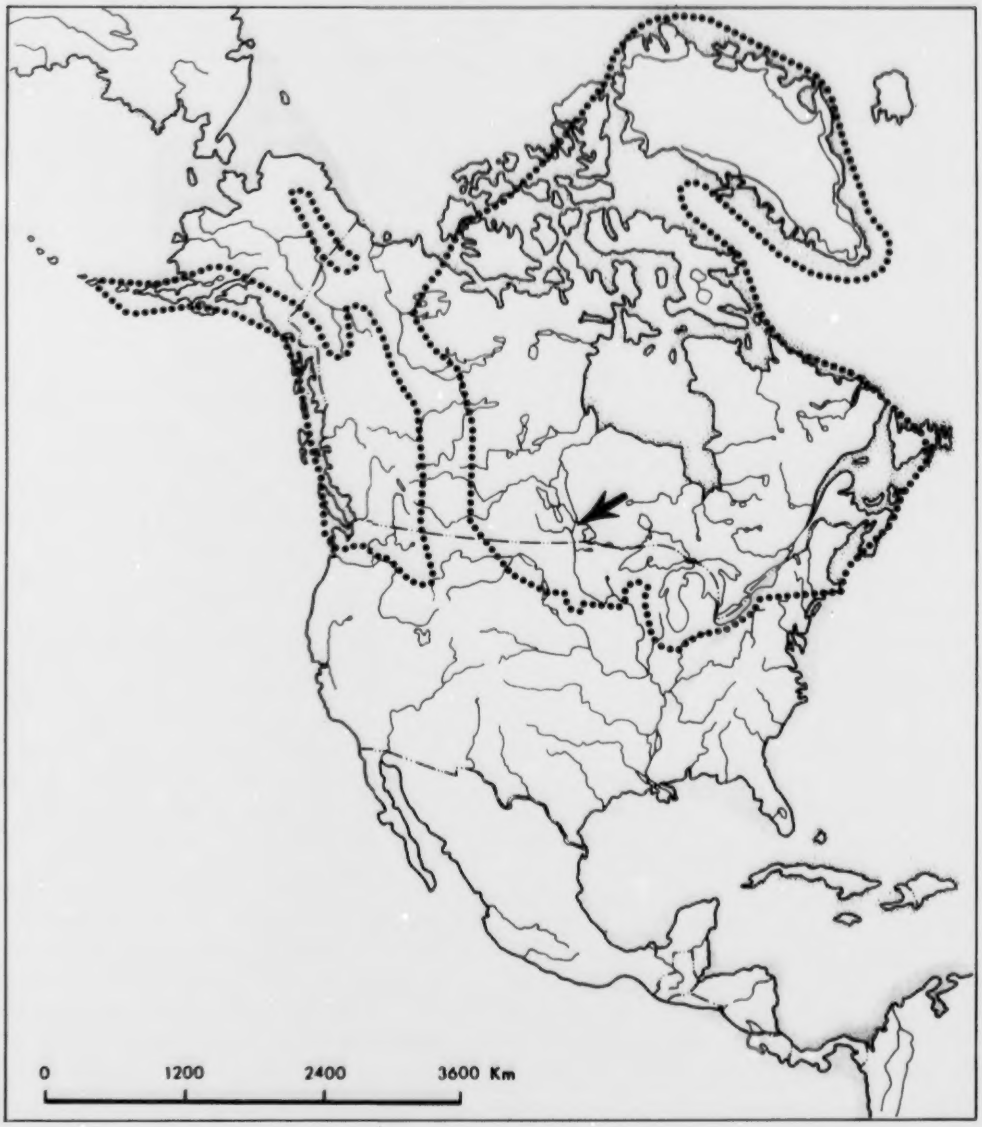
The natural environment of an area is an important consideration to an archaeologist, since any study of human culture is also an examination of how people adapted themselves to, and used, their environment.

The planning district encompasses an area of approximately 1500 square kilometres. It contains a number of environmental zones and the most important of these, in terms of heritage site location, are the lakes and streams in the area. There is one major body of water and two waterways in the planning district: the south basin of Lake Winnipeg and the Red and Brokenhead rivers. The major secondary streams within the planning district are the Netley, Cook's and Devils creek watersheds. Netley Creek also contains three main tributaries: Wavey, Muckle's and Medicine creeks. Drainage throughout the area is oriented toward Lake Winnipeg and much of the area around the south basin is composed of marshy lowland and small inter-connecting lakes. This area is collectively known as the Netley-Libau Marsh which extends to approximately the eastern boundary of the planning district. A portion of Oak Hammock Marsh also lies within the southwest corner of the planning district.

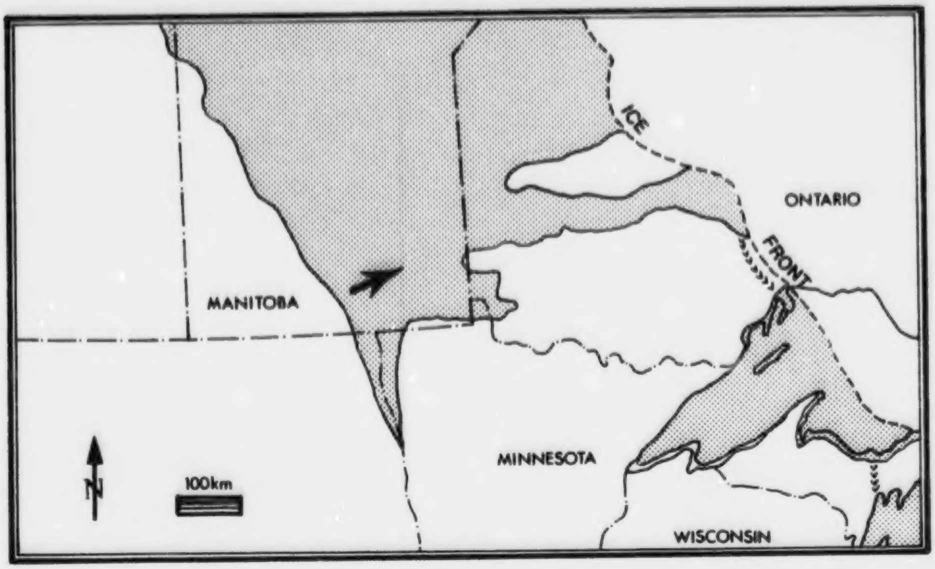
The Selkirk and District Planning Area is situated between latitude 50°0' to 50°35' North and longitude 96°21' to 97°7' west. Elevation above sea level (asl) varies from 220 metres asl, which is the normal level of Lake Winnipeg, to 276.9 metres asl in the northeast corner, to about 238.5 metres asl in the northwest corner of the district. The entire district is contained within the Red River Plain of the Manitoba Lowlands.

Manitoba in general and the planning area in particular have experienced a considerable degree of climatic and vegetational change through time. The most extreme conditions existed about 18,000 to 10,000 years BC, when all or most of Manitoba was covered by glacial ice. After this time, a warming trend caused the ice front to "retreat" northward, giving rise to Glacial Lake Agassiz. Climatic reconstructions have been made on the basis of studies of pollen retrieved from lake sediment in southwestern Manitoba and north-central United States. Early vegetation cover is scientifically determined by the relative percentages of pollen grains found in the sediments. Once the zones of vegetation have been determined, then the climatic conditions are interpolated based on the type of climate where the present-day vegetation zones are known to exist.

There are two, somewhat contrasting, climatic and vegetation reconstructions available for the period of 9000 BC to about 500 BC. The first is based on pollen samples from the north-central United States and the second on similar research conducted in southwestern Manitoba. Both indicate a cool, moist period until about 8000 BC. Up until then, maximum summer temperatures were in the order of 26°C and the predominant vegetation was a mixed deciduous-coniferous forest containing spruce, larch, aspen, black ash, and juniper, as well as herbs and sedges. Following the cool-moist period, there was a transitional cool-humid period which gradually gave way to a period of warmer and drier-than-present conditions. Maximum summer temperatures of this warmer period, known as the "Altithermal", ranged between 30° and 36° C and precipitation was 10 to 20%



North America as it may have looked at the height of the last glaciation c. 16,000 BC. The areas enclosed in dots are glaciated, and the dark areas along the coasts represent tracts of land that became dry due to a fall in the sea level. At that time, our study area (arrow) was buried beneath the glacier and was uninhabitable.



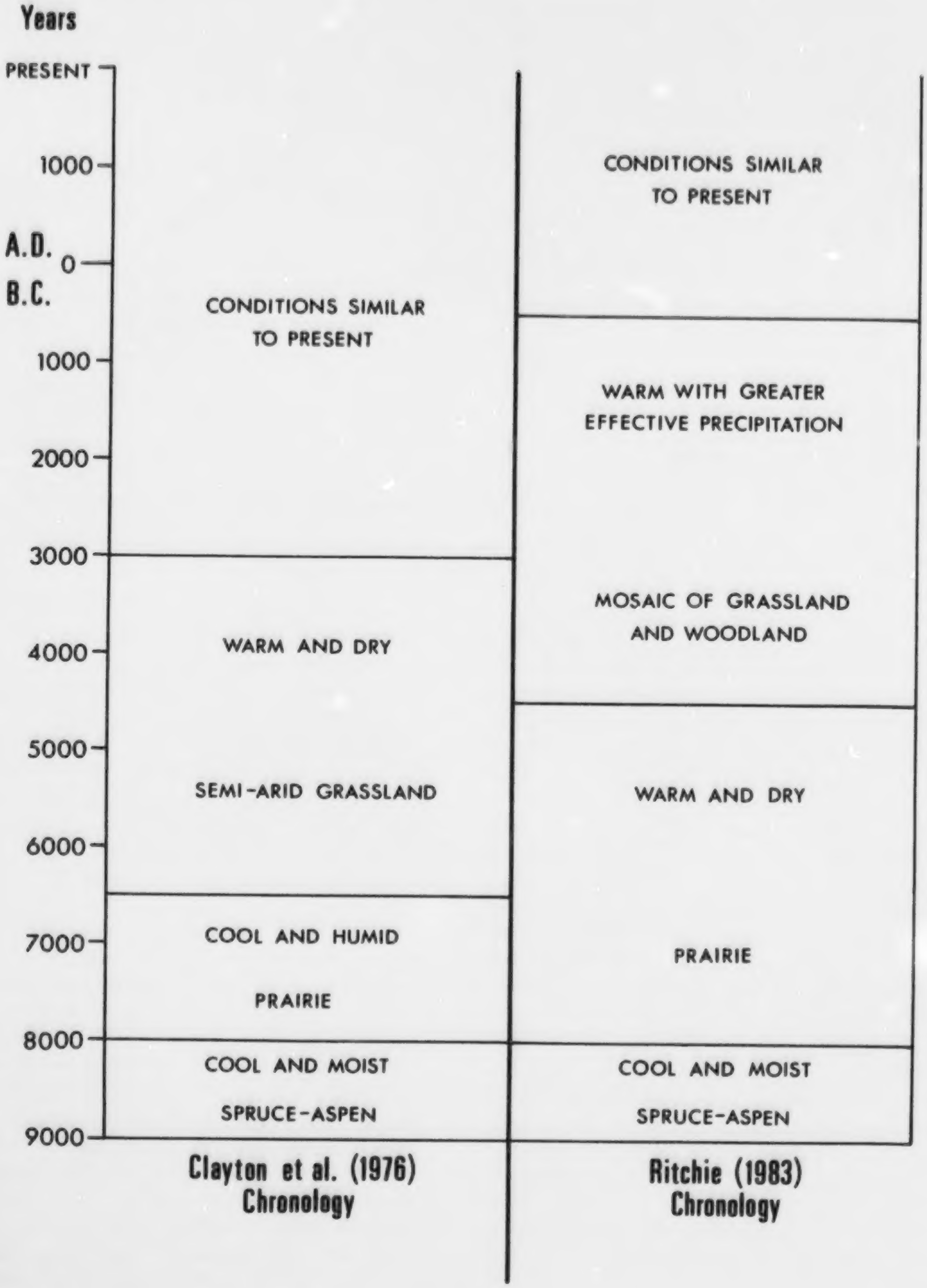
Around 8500 BC, the study area (arrow) lay beneath Glacial Lake Agassiz.

less than that of today. The planning area was largely covered in grassland vegetation which included several species of grass mixed with weeds. In moister soil areas, shrubs and stands of deciduous trees were common.

Early during the onset of the Altithermal, Glacial Lake Agassiz began to recede. Studies have indicated that the period between 7500 to 6500 BC was the earliest that habitable land was uncovered within the district. The period of 6300 to 4500 BC appears to be the time of final stabilization and emergence of modern landforms throughout the planning area. The warm, dry conditions of the Altithermal moderated between 4500 to 500 BC, largely through an increase in the amount of effective precipitation. Vegetational coverage changed to form a mosaic of grassland and woodland -- in other words, a parkland.

By about 500 BC, the climate and vegetation approximated that of today. There were minor climatic fluctuations after this time, in the form of either increasing or decreasing temperature and precipitation. In response to these fluctuations, the southern margin of the boreal forest either shifted southward or northward, depending on the climatic conditions of the time. Seven climatic "episodes" have been defined for this period and are summarized below (Table 1).

The present climate is characterized by extremes in temperatures during the summer and winter. During July, the mean daily temperature is about 20°C while the mean daily January temperature is -17.8°C. The frost-free period lasts about 120 days, with the average date of the last spring frost being May 25 and the average date of the first fall frost being September 20. Average annual precipitation is about 520 mm. Also of importance (especially before the advent of roads and cart trails) is the average date of spring break-up and fall freeze-up of the Red River, which usually occurs around April 19 and November 16, respectively.


Years
PRESENT
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7000
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9000
CONDITIONS SIMILAR TO PRESENT
WARM AND DRY
SEMI-ARID GRASSLAND
COOL AND HUMID
PRAIRIE
COOL AND MOIST
SPRUCE-ASPEN
Clayton et al. (1976) Chronology
CONDITIONS SIMILAR TO PRESENT
WARM WITH GREATER EFFECTIVE PRECIPITATION
MOSAIC OF GRASSLAND AND WOODLAND
WARM AND DRY
PRAIRIE
COOL AND MOIST
SPRUCE-ASPEN
Ritchie (1983) Chronology

A diagram of the two major climatic reconstructions for the southern Manitoba region.

Table 1. Climate and Vegetation Reconstruction of the Post-Altithermal Period in Central North America

Episode	Duration	Climate	Vegetation
Sub-Boreal	3110 BC to 810 BC	Increase in precipitation over the Altithermal	Grassland and boreal forest
Sub-Atlantic	810 BC to 270 AD	Wetter and cooler summers	Southward migration of boreal forest
Scandic	270 AD to 690 AD	Warming and drying trend	Slight retreat of boreal forest
Neo-Atlantic	690 AD to 1100 AD	Increased summer precipitation	Slight southward advance of boreal forest
Pacific	1100 AD to 1550 AD	Increased aridity	Extension of grasslands
Neo-Boreal	1550 AD to 1850 AD	Cooler than present	Southward advance of boreal forest
Recent	After 1850 AD	Same as present	Present location of vegetation zones

The current vegetation throughout the planning district is highly variable. Due to agricultural activities, much of the natural vegetation has been modified, and the marsh area surrounding the south basin of Lake Winnipeg is possibly the only area to remain unaltered through time. However, there has been a gradual southward extension of the marsh in recent times due to a slow but inexorable rise in the level of Lake Winnipeg.

Prior to agricultural clearing, vegetation south of the Netley-Libau Marsh consisted of prairie and meadow grasses with scattered groves of willow and aspen. Currently, tree growth is concentrated in areas along the Red River and its minor tributaries. The northwest corner of the planning area contains three vegetation zones: (1) an aspen parkland which forms an interface between (2) a lightly wooded grassland in the southwest corner of this region and (3) the mixed woods to the north. The northeastern portion of the planning district has the most varied vegetation; in general, this area is characterized by mixed stands of broadleaf and coniferous species, mainly aspen and spruce. Softwoods prevail along the east edge of Lake Winnipeg, either in uniform stands or mixed with hardwoods. Stands of shrubs also abound in some areas along the lake.

The detailed review of the environment provides a background setting for the peoples who utilized the area, especially for the period prior to 1000 BC when the environment was markedly different from that of today. In the following chapters, the successive cultures are discussed, beginning with the first evidence of human occupation and concluding with the cultural antecedents of the present ethnic make-up in the area. Collectively, this spans a period of about 6500 BC to 1925 AD.

THE PREHISTORY OF THE SELKIRK AND DISTRICT PLANNING AREA

The prehistory of Manitoba can be divided into three periods, most commonly called the Early, Middle and Late periods. Each period is discussed below in terms of the "cultures" that are characteristic of that time period. Each culture is represented archaeologically by a standard set of artifacts and features known as a "complex". Thus, a complex is what a culture, or lifeway, has left behind as material evidence of its former existence. Different cultures (and their corresponding complexes) are usually named after the geographic location where they are first identified archaeologically. An example is the "Laurel Culture" of the Late Prehistoric Period, whose complex was first identified near Laurel, Minnesota. Two cultures of the Prehistoric period, the "Larter" and "Selkirk", were first identified at archaeological sites located in the Selkirk and District Planning Area. The "Selkirk Culture", incidentally, is not to be confused with that of the Selkirk Settlers, as the former relates to prehistoric people who were possibly the ancestors of the Cree people, while the Selkirk Settlers were of course people from the Scottish highlands. Not only is there an ethnic difference but also a time difference between them of several hundred years.

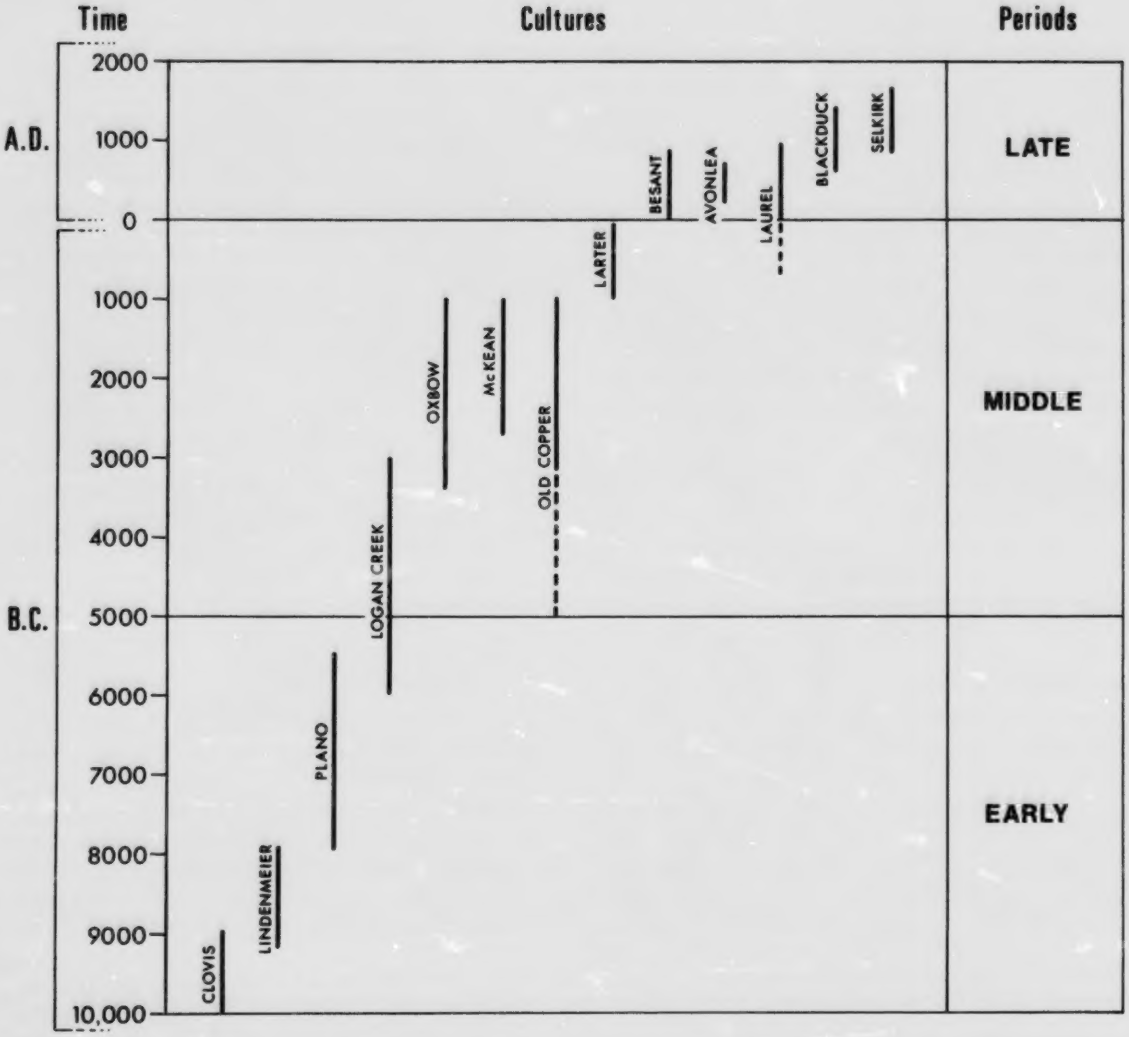
This chapter includes an introduction to the cultural group contained within each period and a brief summary of the assemblages of that group. Although human prehistory began about 12,000 years ago, or c. 10,000 BC, in Manitoba, most of the research area was not likely inhabitable until about 6500 BC.

Early Prehistoric Period

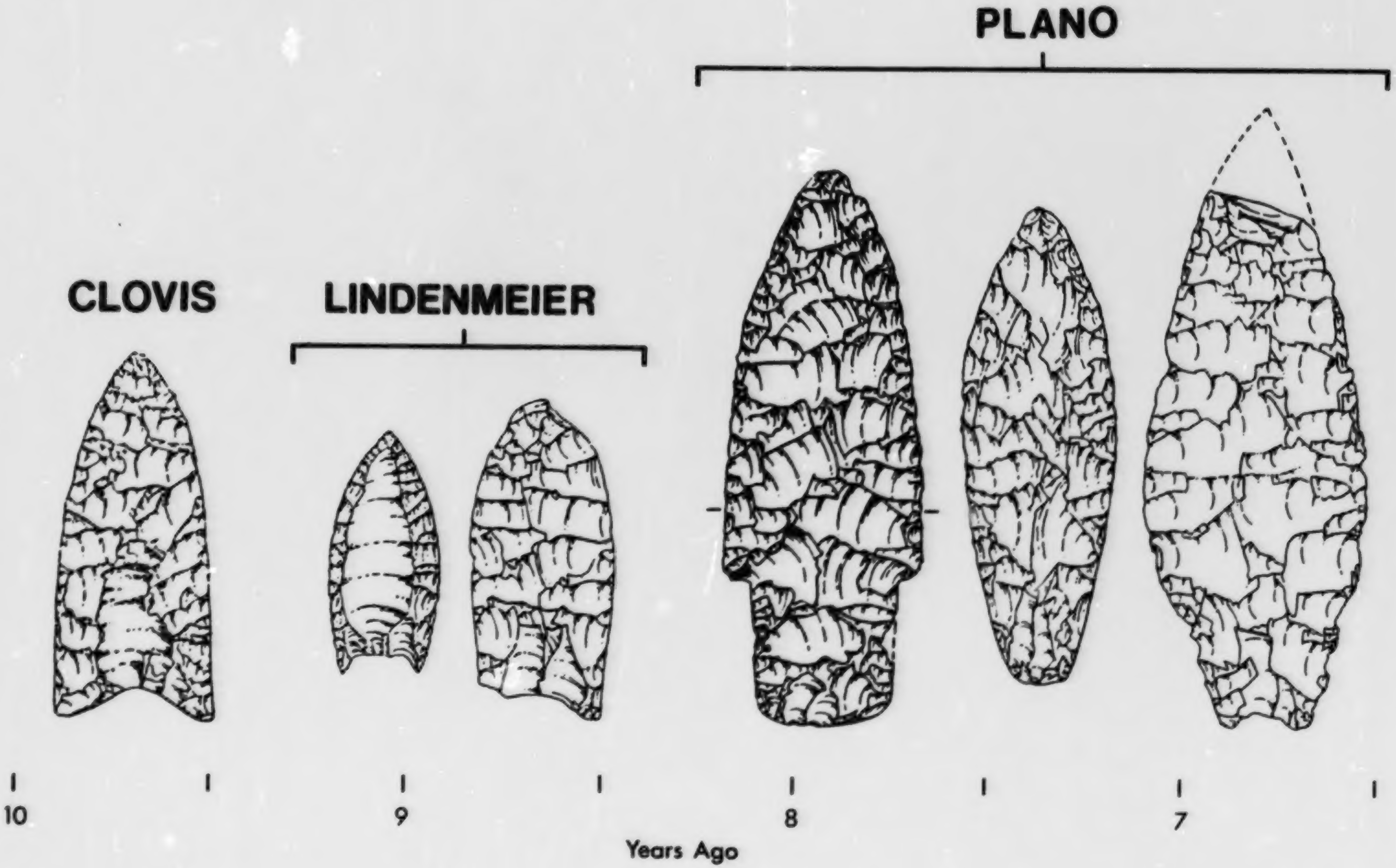
(6500-5500 BC)

This earliest epoch is also known as the "Palaeo-Indian Period" and is characterized by a gradual movement of people into Manitoba from the south and southwest. The Palaeo-Indian Period has been divided into three phases: "Clovis", "Lindenmeier" and "Plano". Of the three, the Plano is the most commonly found throughout the province and Plano material has been located in the planning district. Remains of the latter phase are the earliest remnants of human occupation in the Selkirk area and date from c. 6500 to c. 5500 BC. Characteristic of their assemblages are slender spear points called "Agate Basin", "Hell Gap" and "Manitoba", as well as tools of bone and wood. The Plano people were nomadic big game hunters, and evidence from excavated sites in the High Plains of the United States and southeastern Manitoba has suggested that animals such as the bison were hunted. In southern Manitoba, Plano people gradually migrated around the southern basin of Lake Agassiz into the Winnipeg River area and adapted themselves to the boreal forest.

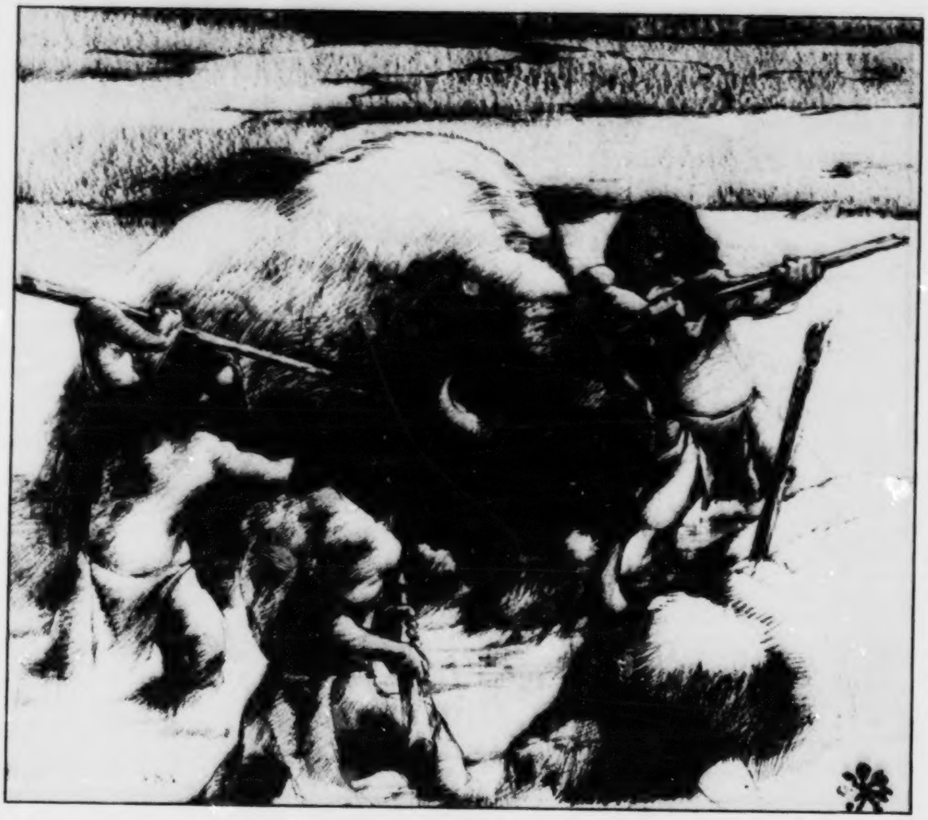
Evidence of the Plano people in the planning district is based on a single spear point, identified as a "Manitoba point", found near the mouth of the Red River. Similar points have been located northwest of the planning area in the Swan Lake and Swan River areas, and as far west as the Rocky Mountains of Alberta and in Wyoming, where they have been dated 6600 BC and 6100 BC, respectively.



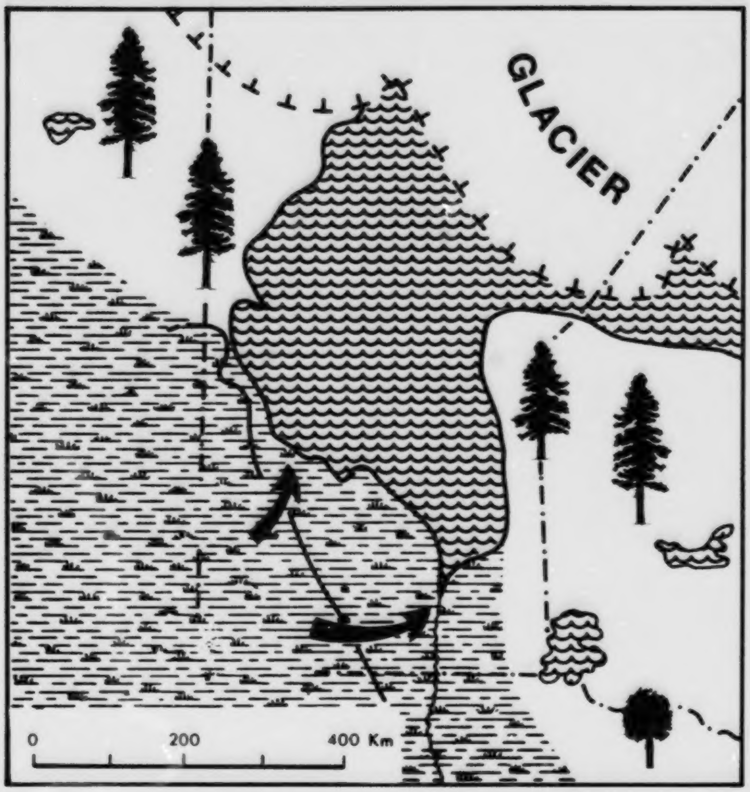
Prehistoric periods and cultures of southern Manitoba. Archaeological evidence of the Clovis and Lindenmeier cultures is not expected to be found in the planning area because it was inundated by Lake Agassiz when these cultures were in existence.


PLANO
CLOVIS
LINDENMEIER
10
9
8
7
Years Ago

A diagrammatic portrayal of the Early Prehistoric Period of southern Manitoba, represented by distinctive weapon point forms of the various cultures. The "Manitoba" point type, the only Early Prehistoric form discovered in the planning area to date, is shown at the far right.



The first people to occupy southeastern Manitoba following the retreat of Lake Agassiz are believed to have based their livelihood upon the hunting of now-extinct forms of bison.



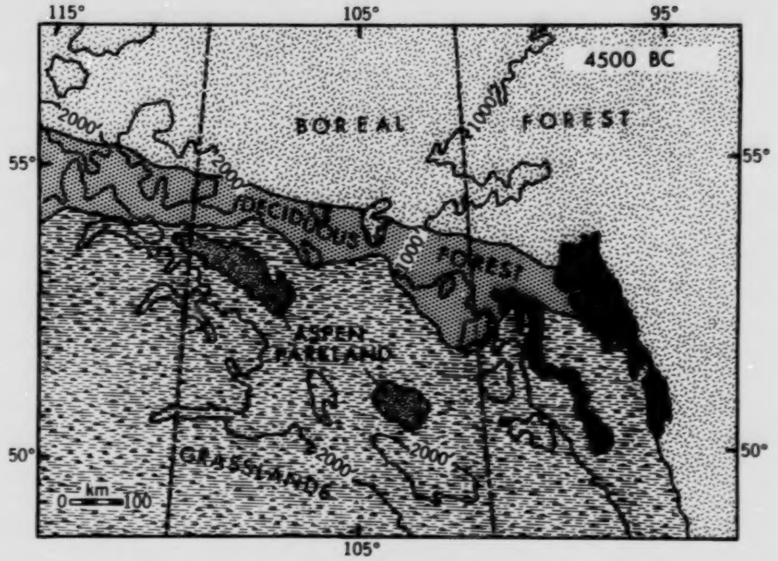
As Lake Agassiz diminished in size, new areas were opened up for human habitation -- including what is now the Selkirk and District Planning Area.

Middle Prehistoric Period

(5500 BC - 1 AD)

The first 2500 years of this period in Manitoba correspond roughly with the Altithermal, the period of greater heat and aridity than today. Evidence of the first Middle Prehistoric cultural manifestation, the "Logan Creek Complex", is scarce in Manitoba. This is rather surprising, since southern Manitoba, with its rivers and lakes, would have offered welcome refuge from the drought conditions of the High Plains. Perhaps there is more evidence of the Logan Creek Complex in southern Manitoba than we realize; it has been pointed out before that the Logan Creek projectile point style can easily be confused with that of later complexes, with the result that their true "identities" are not obvious. At any rate, sites corresponding to the Altithermal Period have been located along the Winnipeg River system at Whitemouth Falls near Seven Sisters and at Cemetery Point in the Whiteshell. Dates of 4120 BC and 4400 BC have been attributed to this cultural component at the Whitemouth Falls Site.

Sites dating to the early portion of the Middle Prehistoric Period have

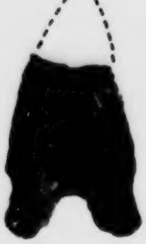


The vegetation of Western Canada around 4500 BC. The study area was situated at the extreme eastern limit of grassland, where the latter gave way to the boreal forest.

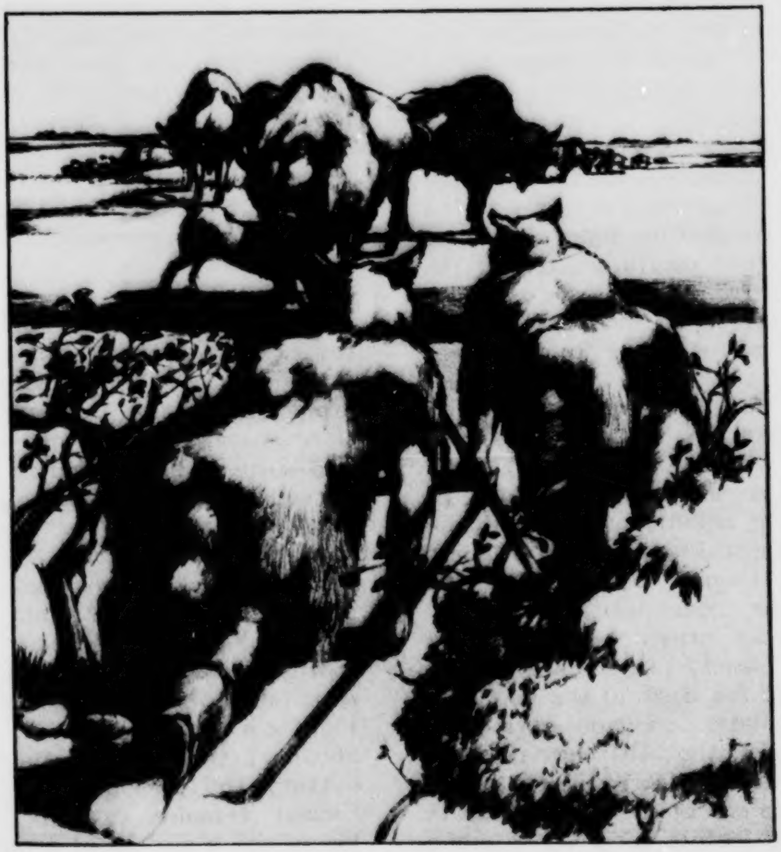
not been recorded in the Selkirk area, but given the riverine habitat along the Red River during the Altithermal, it is probable that groups of Logan Creek people would have been present. The Logan Creek type site (i.e., the place where this culture was first identified) is located in northern Nebraska and contained medium-sized, side-notched stone projectile points as well as very distinctive side-notched scrapers. The notching of projectile points is a practice which continued throughout the Middle Prehistoric Period. The Logan Creek Site also evidenced an increased diversification of food resources used by the inhabitants. The Logan Creek Complex is believed to represent a fusion between the Plano tradition and traits diffused from eastern hunters and gatherers.

Showing similar stylistic traits with the Logan Creek Complex is the "Oxbow Complex". It has been suggested that this latter complex developed from either Logan Creek or some other, earlier complex characterized by side-notched projectile points. It is particularly noteworthy in the sense that it represents the first major influx of human beings into southern Manitoba following the Altithermal. The Oxbow Complex is identified on the basis of the Oxbow projectile point type which is characterized by a thin, incurved base with "ears" at the juncture of its base and sides. The point is further characterized by side-notches. Other tools of the Oxbow Complex include a variety of stone knives and scrapers, hammerstones and also bone and antler tools. The Oxbow people were nomadic hunters and gatherers who depended primarily on bison as their main source of food but who varied their diet with animal and plant species such as elk, wolf, fox, rabbit, goose, clams, hackberries and cherries. The earliest dated Oxbow sites are usually located in the grassland areas, while later ones are found in both the grassland and forest areas. The Oxbow Complex in

A possible Logan Creek point from the Selkirk and District Planning Area. Note the large notches on either side, hence the term "side-notched".



An Oxbow point from the Selkirk and District Planning Area. Note the downward projecting "ears" and the incurved base or bottom between the "ears". The presence of these distinctive characteristics allow us to identify such artifacts as Oxbow points.

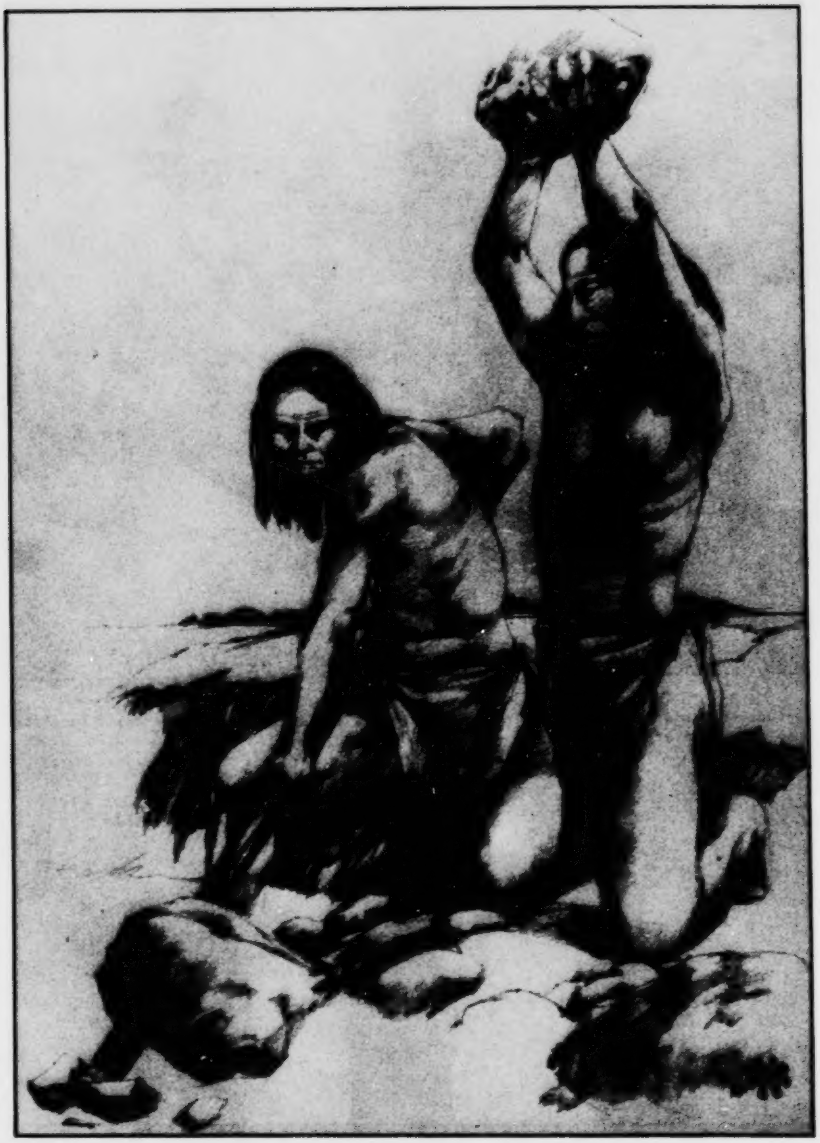


Bison hunters of the Oxbow Culture.

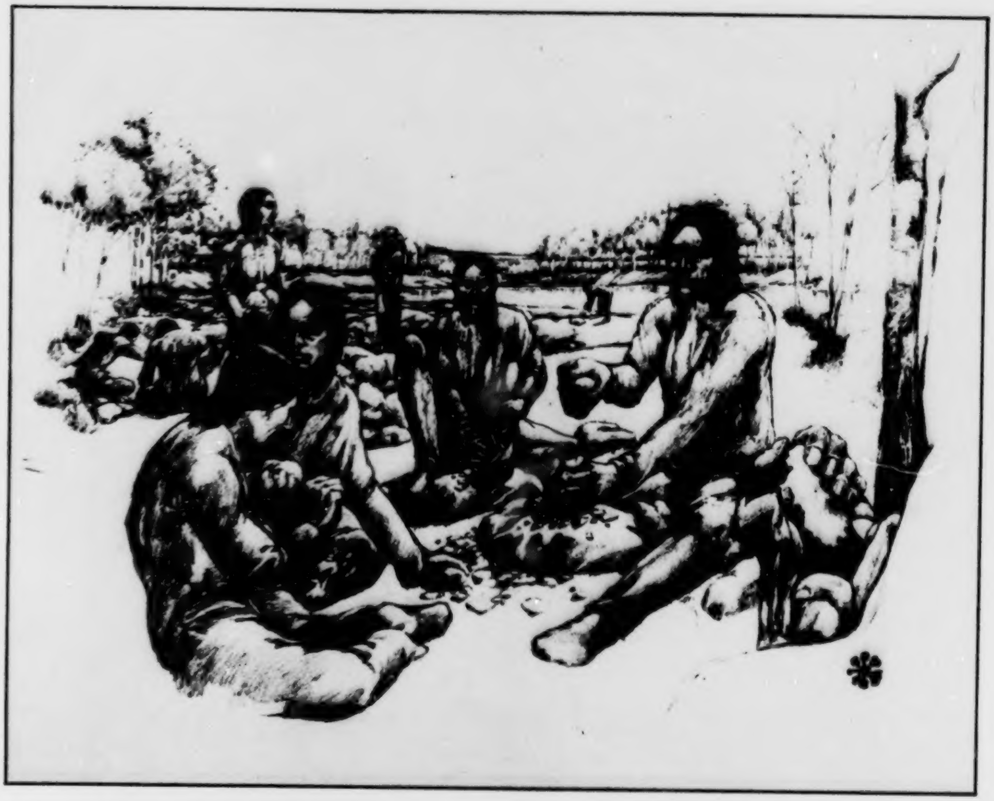
southern Manitoba dates from about 3300 to 1000 BC. Oxbow sites that post-date 2000 BC are primarily confined to the forest areas, and it has been inferred that sites falling within the 3000 to 2000 BC period indicate a transition from a plains to a forest-oriented economy.

Several Oxbow sites have been recorded in the planning district. Surface finds have been located in the south-central and north-central portion of the study area and also among private collections in the northwest corner as well. These later collections were concentrated along a north-south trending ridge located about 15 km west of the Red River. This ridge appears to have been used extensively during and after the Middle Prehistoric Period, as evidenced by the number and variability of the collections in the general area. Use of this ridge likely changed through time in conjunction with changing environmental conditions. For example, following the draining of Lake Agassiz and the subsequent "isostatic rebound", the southern shoreline of Lake Winnipeg gradually shifted southward during the period 5500 BC to 1 AD. Isostatic rebound refers to the process whereby the earth's crust, after having been depressed by the weight of the glacial ice mass, slowly rises back to its pre-glacial position. At about 3000 BC, the initial period of the Oxbow Complex, the southern shoreline of Lake Winnipeg is believed to have been located at approximately 51° 35' north latitude. Around 2000 BC, the shoreline was near latitiude 51° 0' north, or near present-day Riverton. The ridge would have been well removed from the basin of the lake and, given the climatic conditions during the final stages of the Altithermal, in a grassland setting. During wet years, this ridge was one of the few high spots of land and therefore occupations along this geographical feature were likely infrequent, seasonal encampments. Another possibility is that human occupation of the northwestern corner of the planning district dates toward the end of the Oxbow phase in this area. At this time -- about a thousand years BC -- not only was the southern shoreline of Lake Winnipeg approaching its current location, but climatic trends had resulted in cooler and wetter weather. Therefore, animal and human populations may have moved to the higher, better drained areas, such as this ridge. Finally, and independent of environmental factors, the ridge may have been a local source for raw material used in making stone artifacts. The soils of the immediate area are developed from glacial till that is excessively stoney. It is therefore possible that quarrying of raw material was conducted throughout the area. Most of the artifacts observed in the private collections were made from local stone, primarily chert, which lends support to this interpretation. Much of the gravel ridge is currently being quarried and several exposed areas examined during the 1984 survey revealed an abundance of available stone material.

Largely contemporaneous with the Oxbow Complex was the "McKean Complex" which includes three projectile point types: McKean, Duncan and Hanna. McKean points are leaf-shaped, basally notched and have curved or parallel sides. Duncan points are stemmed, basally notched specimens with straight to slightly curved sides. Hanna points are also stemmed with either a slightly notched or straight base, barbed shoulders and straight edges. Other artifacts associated with the McKean Complex include a variety of end-scraper shapes, chopping tools, stone flakes used for cutting and scraping, and bone tools. Faunal remains consist primarily of bison, and a variety of forest mammals, depending on the geographic setting.

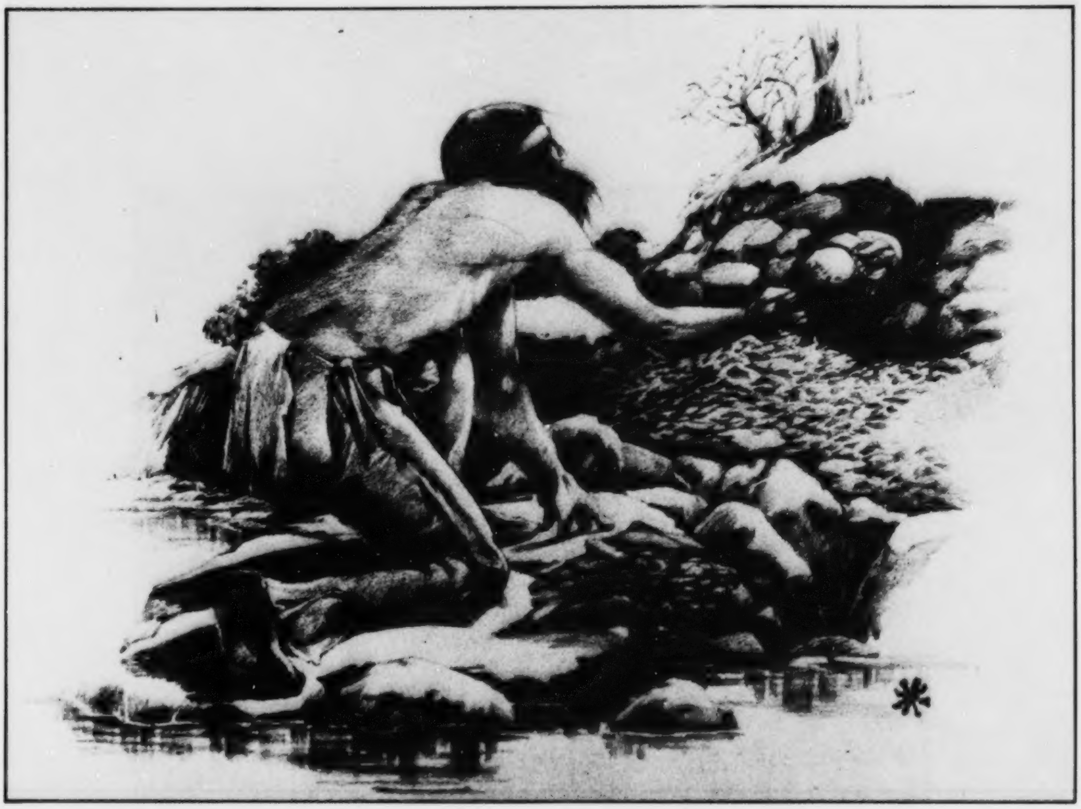


Quarrying stone from a gravel deposit. The product of this activity was the raw material from which weapon points and tools were manufactured.



The manufacture of tools and weapons by the breaking down and shaping of stone was a long-standing tradition in the study area.

McKean points from the Selkirk and District Planning Area.

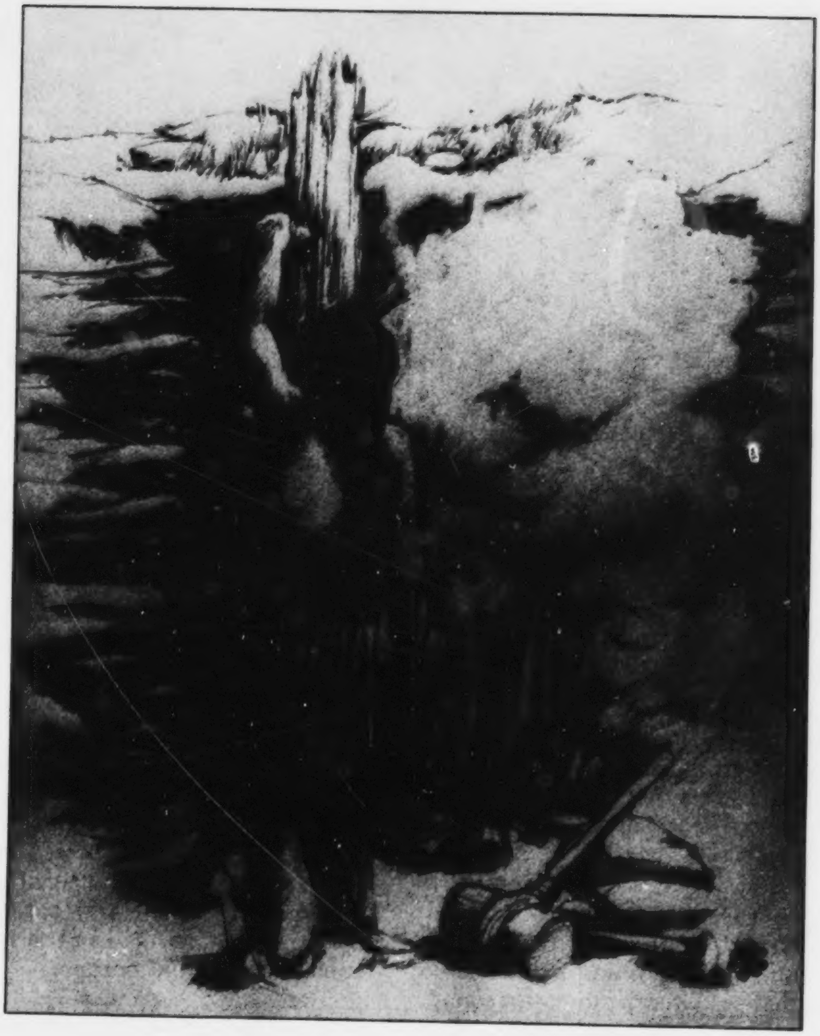


Some of the stone used in making instruments and weapons is believed to have been mined from bedrock outcrops along the banks of the Red River.

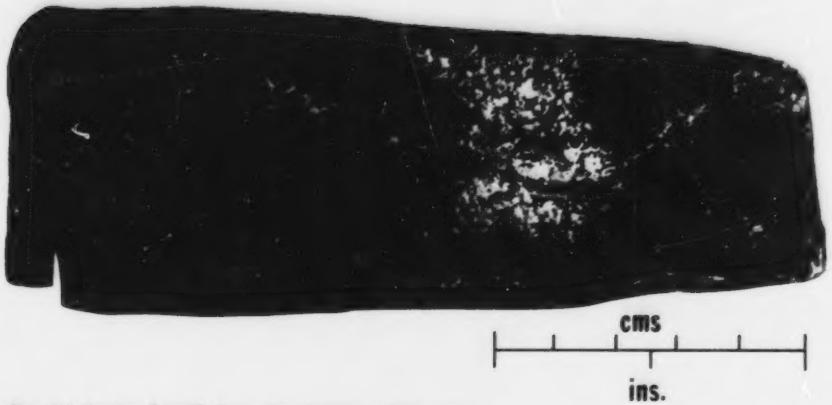
Material of the McKean Complex has been recovered from the surface at the Lockport and Larter sites as well as from the northwest corner of the planning district.

Before the closing phase of the Middle Prehistoric Period is discussed, brief mention must be made of the Old Copper Complex which, in Manitoba, dates to between 3000 and 1000 BC. This complex is represented by a variety of tool forms that includes projectile points, knives, crescents, awls, punches, needles, pikes, drills, axes, adzes, chisels, fishhooks, bracelets and beads -- all made of native copper. A variety of stone and bone tools has also been found in association. It has been hypothesized that this complex initially was introduced into Manitoba via the Red River valley. By 2000 BC, Old Copper was oriented more toward the Winnipeg River system and thence westward across southern Manitoba. After 1000 BC, the frequency of copper implements in the cultural assemblages diminished, with artifacts now being more and more of an ornamental rather than a functional nature.

No finds of the Old Copper Complex have been made in the Selkirk and District Planning Area, but two specimens have been recorded in adjacent municipalities. A projectile point was found 3.2 km north of Gimli along the shoreline of Lake Winnipeg, while a private collection from the Pleasant Home area contained a "spud", that is, a tool used for digging, lifting and/or cutting.



The metal from which the Old Copper tools of southern Manitoba were made was quarried from bedrock in the Upper Great Lakes region to the southeast. The ore was probably extracted by heating the rock and then throwing cold water on it, causing it to fracture or break apart.



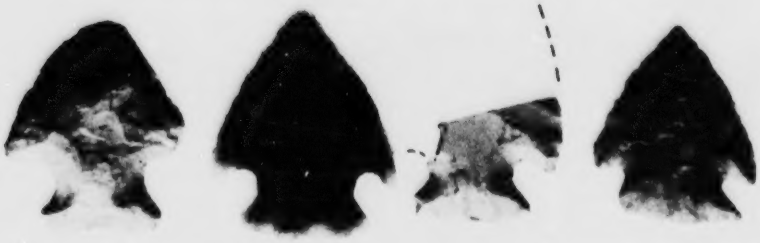
The Old Copper "spud" from the Pleasant Home area.

The final Middle Prehistoric complex to be discussed is the "Larter Complex" which dates from about 1200 to 200 BC and is named after the Larter Site near Parkdale, Manitoba. "Larter Tanged" points are generally corner-notched. Other stone artifacts commonly found in components of this complex include a wide range of cutting and scraping tools, gravers, chisels, and hammerstones. Bone scrapers have also been found. The Larter economy was largely oriented toward bison hunting, supplemented by other animal and plant species.

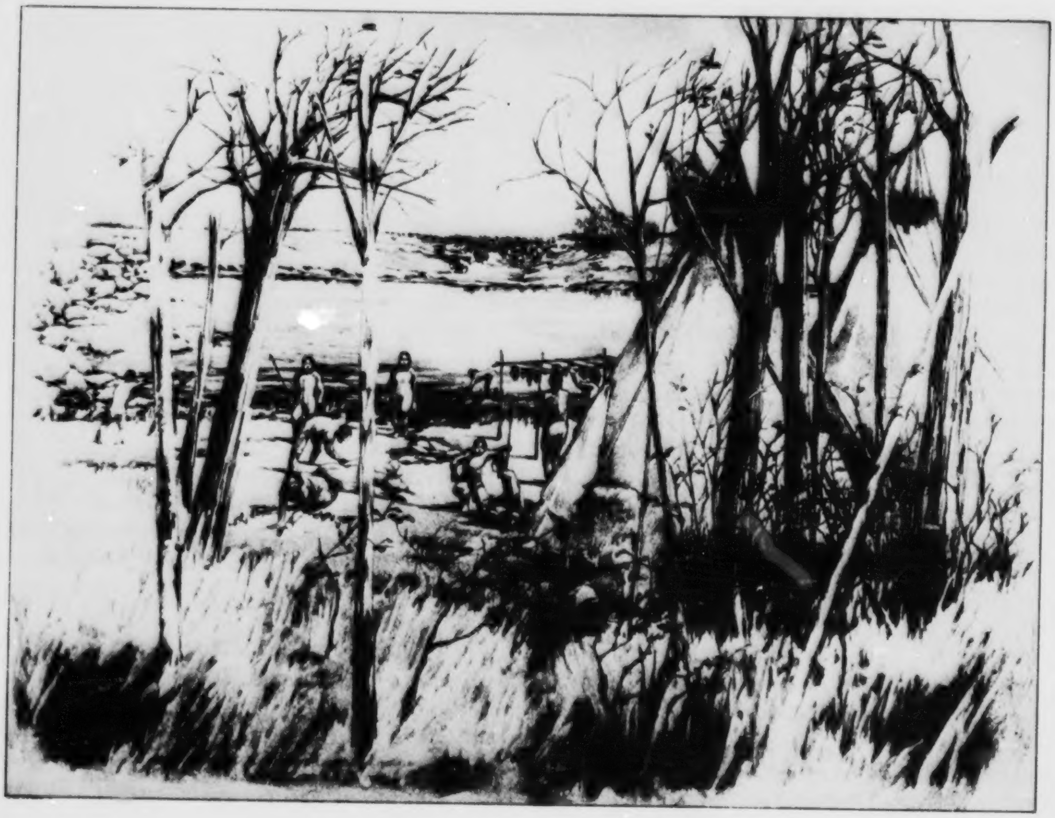
Sites of this complex have been recorded throughout the planning area, with excavated remains having been located at the Lockport and Larter sites in the south-central portion of the planning district, and in surface deposits in the north-central and the northwestern portion of the study area.

Most of the peoples of the Middle Prehistoric Period of whom evidence is available in the planning area were initially plains-oriented, nomadic bison hunters. Over time, they or their direct descendants took up residence in the very different boreal forest environment -- a striking testimony to the adaptability of their cultures. Their assemblages are composed primarily of stone, bone and wood tools and the cultures have been distinguished on the basis of the projectile points that they manufactured. These projectile points were attached to wooden shafts and were launched with an "atlatl", or throwing board.

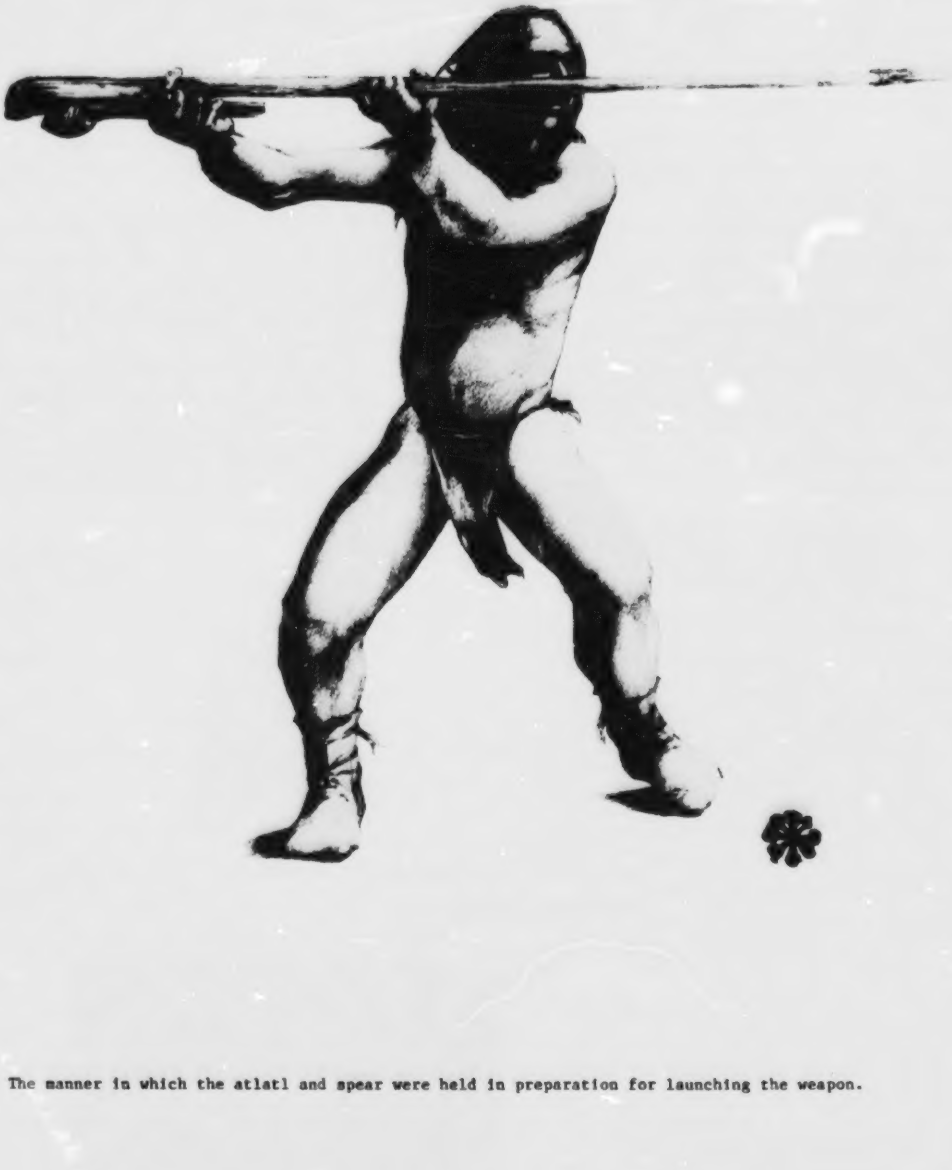
During the latter portion of the Middle Prehistoric Period there was a gradual southward and westward advance of the boreal forest caused by an increase in moisture and a decrease in temperature. As a result of this advance, it appears that the bison altered their summer and winter ranges which no doubt prompted a similar shift by the human populations. Not surprisingly, the planning area was thereafter utilized by forest-adapted peoples.



Larter Tanged points from the Selkirk and District Planning Area.



A reconstruction of a village scene of the Larter Culture at the present site of Lockport, when bison hunting was the major food-getting activity.



The manner in which the atlatl and spear were held in preparation for launching the weapon.

Late Prehistoric Period

(1 AD - 1650 AD)

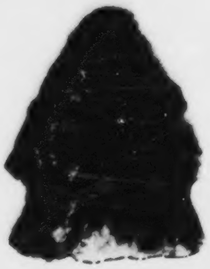
This period in Manitoba is characterized by a number of technological innovations, one of them being pottery-making. It has been inferred that prior to this time cooking was done in either animal skin bags, birchbark containers, or earth-lined pits. A second important innovation during this period was the bow and arrow, which was probably introduced into the planning area from the west.

In the Selkirk planning area, the archaeological record of the final prehistoric period is characterized by small sites located along rivers or small streams, and the occasional large site situated at places where food was especially abundant. We also find an increase in the overall number of sites. The increased numbers of sites probably represents an increase in the population of the area.

The final prehistoric period is represented by five cultural complexes: "Besant", "Avonlea", "Laurel", "Blackduck" and "Selkirk". In southwestern Manitoba, the plains-oriented Besant Complex dates from 1 AD to 800 AD. The main mode of subsistence was bison hunting by means of such methods as drives over river banks or into natural traps or pounds.

A number of finds of this complex have been recorded in the planning district. For example, a Besant point was found south of Kirkness in the southeast corner of the area while a possible Besant point was found in the south-central region along the Red River. These isolated finds may represent a winter movement of Besant people into the Red River area as they followed the migrating bison. The find near Kirkness may further indicate utilization of the Bird's Hill area as a bison wintering ground.

The Avonlea people, whose culture dates to between 400 and 700 AD, probably originated in the west and moved eastward into Manitoba from Alberta and Saskatchewan. They were expert bison hunters, using the pound and jump techniques to take their prey. They tipped their arrows with very fine, thin, minute projectile points for killing bison in the close quarters of the pound or corral. Indeed, it is generally believed that it was the Avonlea people who introduced the bow and arrow into southern Manitoba. Only a few of the distinctive Avonlea projectile points have been found in our area, and it is likely that Avonlea people did not frequent the district as much as they did regions further to the west.



A Besant point from the Selkirk and District Planning Area.

An Avonlea point from the Selkirk and District Planning Area.

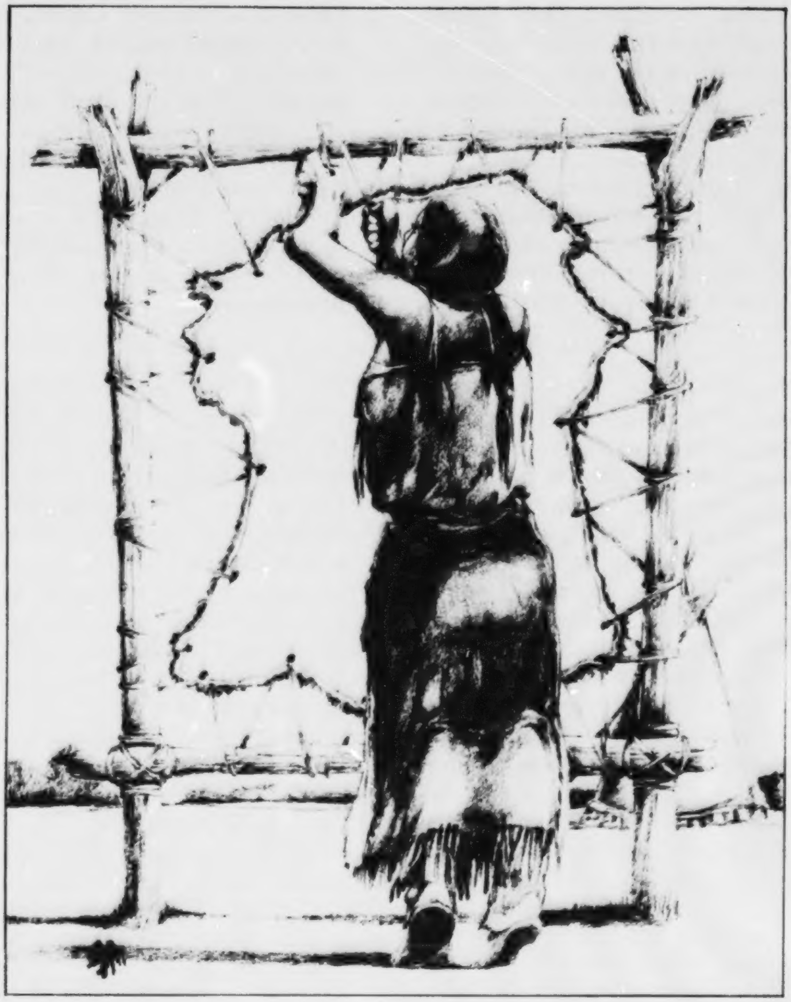
The next complex, the Laurel, possibly spread into the area from the eastern United States after 500 BC, when cooler and wetter climatic conditions caused a southwestward expansion of the boreal forest. The Laurel complex dates from c. 500 BC to about 1000 AD. However, given the boreal forest adaptation of Laurel people, most sites of this complex are located east and north of the planning area.

Laurel assemblages include a variety of large and small stemmed and side-notched projectile points, a variety of stone cutting and scraping tools, perforators, mortars and pestles, as well as bone and antler tools. Laurel ceramic vessels are "coconut-shaped" with either vertical or slightly flared rims. Decoration applied to the upper vessel rim consisted of a variety of decorative motifs that were pushed, stamped or scratched into the clay before it became hard. The faunal assemblages at Laurel sites consist of fish, deer, beaver, elk, moose, bison, birds and molluscs. Bison bones are less common in Laurel assemblages than they were in previous components. The practice of burying the dead in burial mounds is also associated with the Laurel Complex. No Laurel mounds have been recorded in the planning area.

Given the variety of faunal remains at other sites throughout eastern Manitoba, it has been suggested that Laurel people followed a seasonal round of activity using the resources of different areas as they became available. The Lockport Site contained an extensive Laurel deposit, and it has been hypothesized that a large number of people congregated there during the spring, summer and early fall. Given the fish-based orientation of Laurel people, it is probable that the southern end of Lake Winnipeg and the many small lakes and streams, such as Netley Lake and Netley Creek, were utilized to a large extent by these people. However, the dense vegetational growth along the lower Red River made it extremely difficult to locate archaeological sites without extensive test excavations. In addition to Lockport, sites with Laurel artifacts have been recorded in the north-central portion and in the south end of the planning area.

The Laurel Complex overlaps with and is ultimately replaced by the Blackduck. It is not known if the latter was a further development of the former or an altogether independent development. Based on evidence from southeastern Manitoba, it has been suggested that cultural traits common to both the Laurel and Blackduck complexes indicate direct cultural continuity, with Blackduck being an outgrowth of Laurel. A second theory suggests that the Blackduck people may have been pushed north- and westward out of areas in the Great lakes region by more easterly groups who, between c. 800 and 1400 AD, had adopted an agricultural mode of subsistence.

The Blackduck Complex had made its appearance in the Red River region by 780 AD. It is represented by a number of sites along the Red River and its minor tributaries, and along the Brokenhead. The ceramic ware, which readily serves to distinguish Blackduck from both earlier and later complexes, is characterized by cord-marked vessels made by the paddle-and-anvil technique. This technique involved striking a cord-wrapped paddle on the exterior of the pot while the clay was still moist and soft. The walls were reinforced by an "anvil" held against the inside of the vessel. Blackduck vessels were either round or globular and decorated by a combination of impressions placed obliquely, horizontally or vertically on the pot.



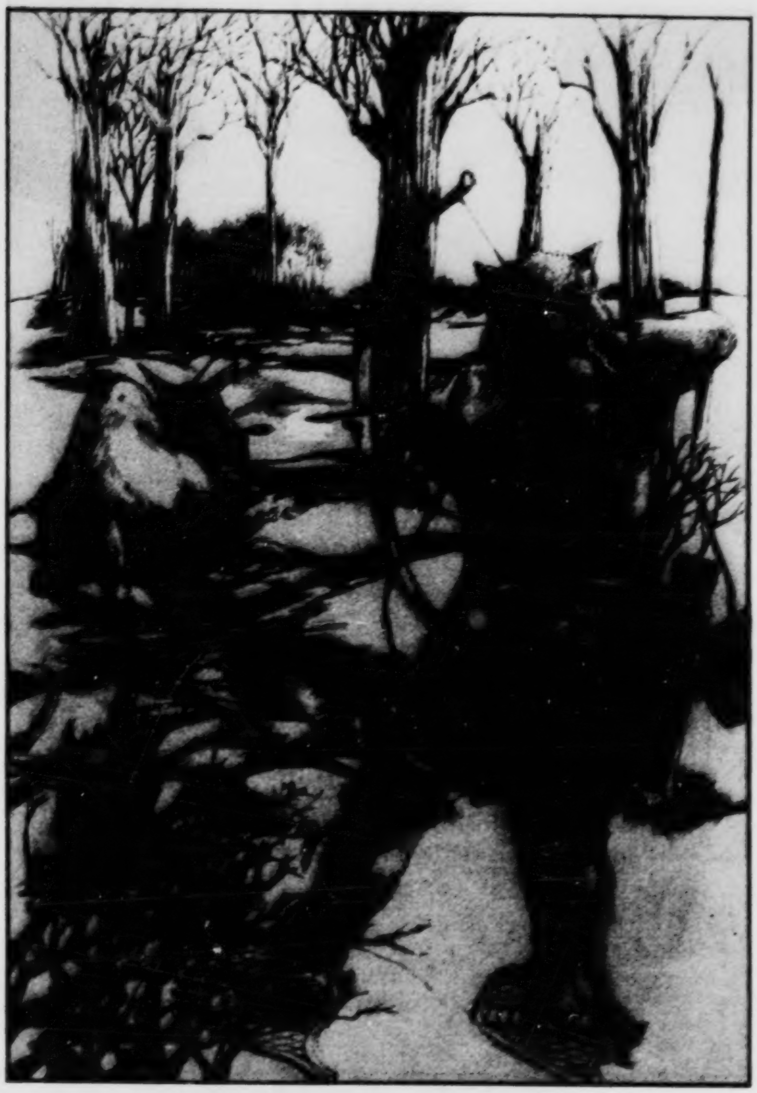
Hide-working for the production of robes and leather was an ancient custom in the Selkirk and District Planning Area, as shown by the common occurrence of scraping tools in the archaeological sites.

Decoration was usually applied on the upper portions of the neck, rim and lip on the exterior vessel surface as well as on the rim area on the interior surface.

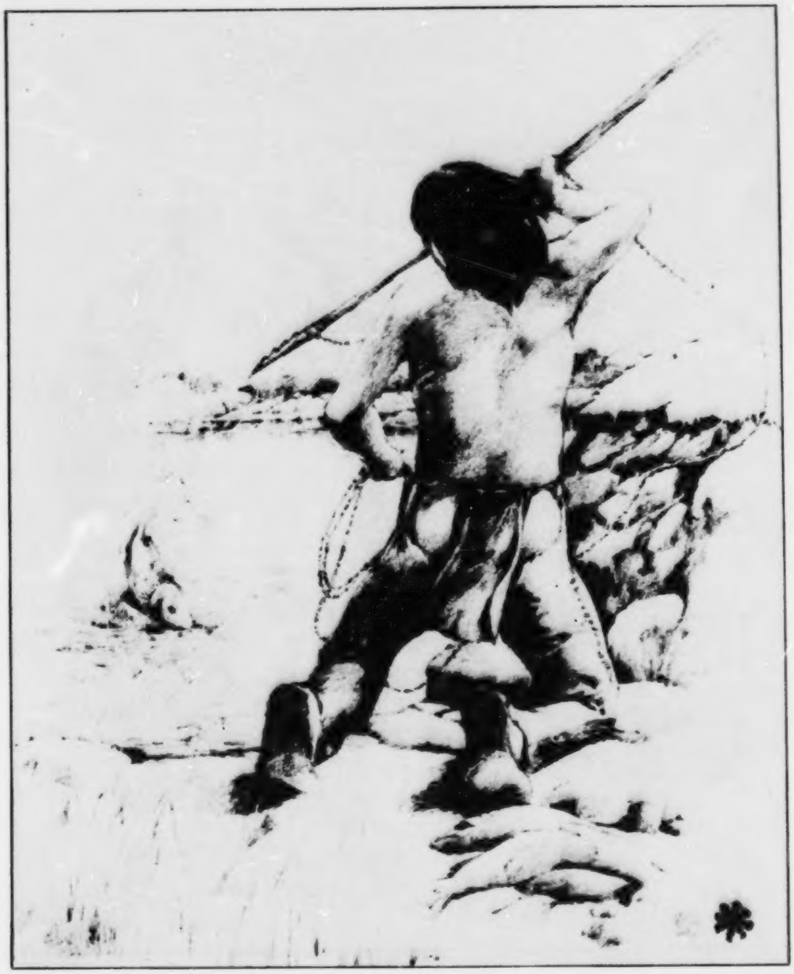
The stone tools of this complex consist of side-notched, triangular and stemmed projectile points, reworked and/or utilized flakes, several kinds of scrapers and knives, hammerstones and pestles. In addition to the above, bone tools and copper ornaments were also used.

Burial mounds are also associated with the Blackduck Complex and several have been recorded in the Selkirk area, the major ones being those adjacent to the Lockport Site. A date of 1570 AD has been attributed to one of these mounds.

Laurel pottery fragments from the Selkirk and District Planning Area, and an artist's reconstruction of a Laurel pot based on evidence from a site on the Winnipeg River to the east. Note the markings on the fragments and in the drawing. These indentations are believed to have been made with a small tooth-edged object that was pressed into the clay while it was still soft.

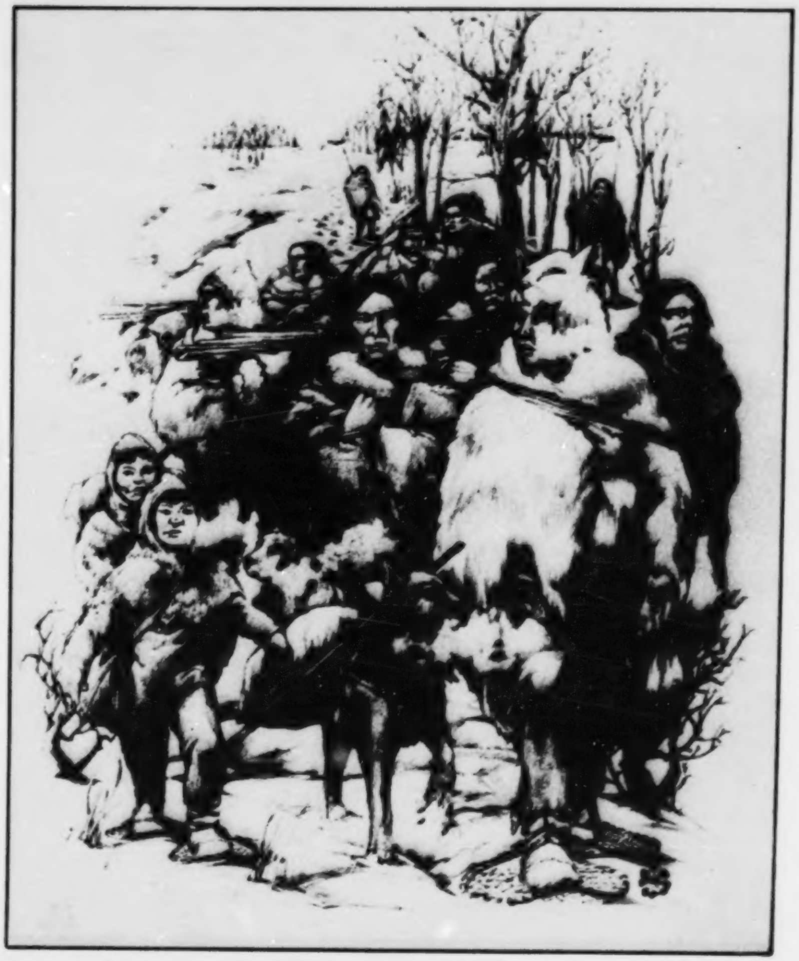


Among the big game animals hunted by people of the Laurel Culture was the moose.



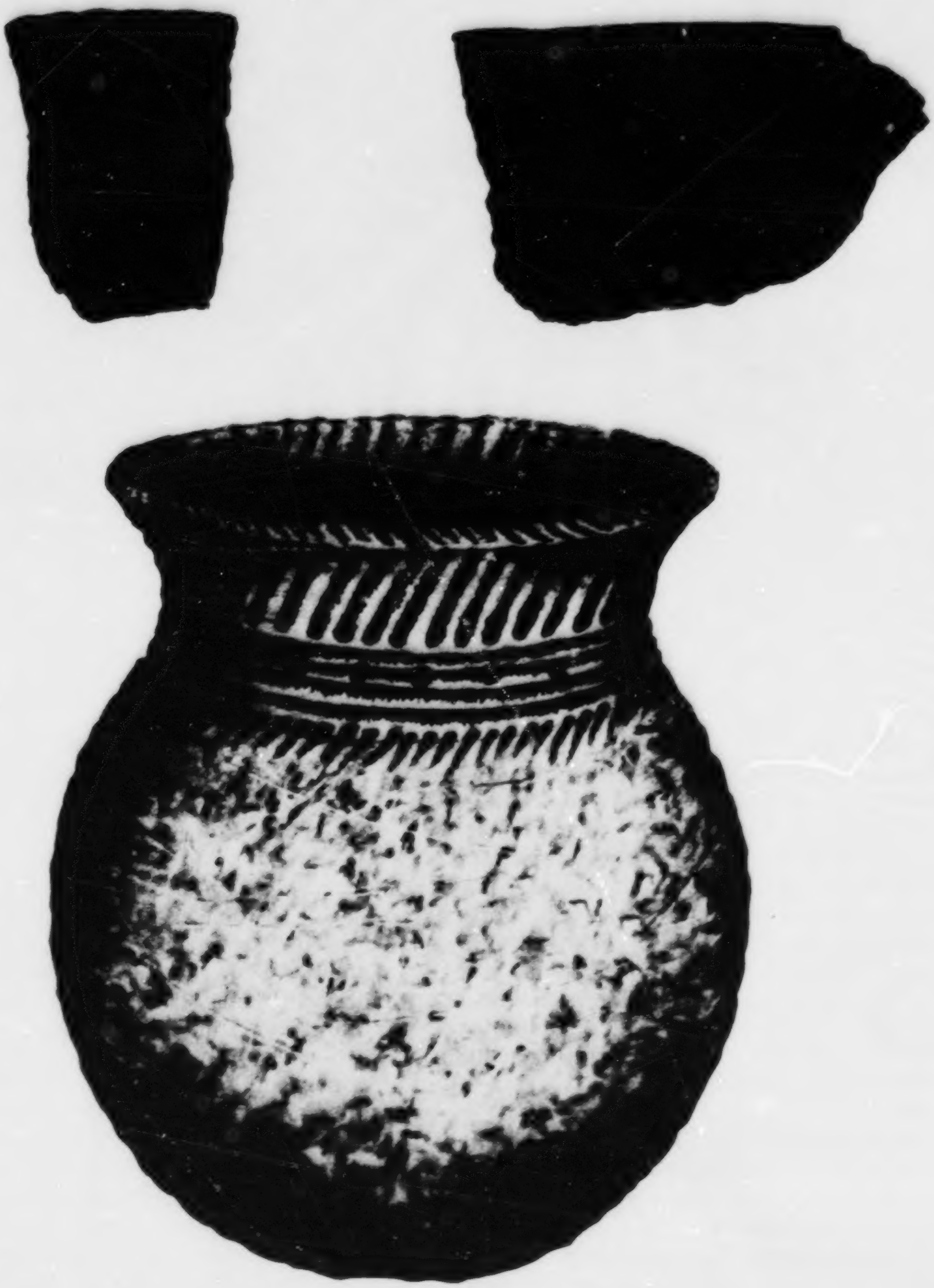
Fishing was an important means of obtaining food by people of the Laurel Culture.

The Blackduck people continued the bison hunting tradition of earlier times as well as the fishing-trapping-plant collecting introduced by their immediate predecessors. But they introduced yet another subsistence endeavour to complement the others. From levels at the Lockport Site dating to the fourteenth century AD came gardening hoes fashioned from the shoulder blades of bison and other large mammals, and milling stones for the grinding of seeds and kernels of corn into flour and meal. Corn, a native North American domesticate, had an overwhelming impact on the lives of many Amerindians over the last 9000 years, but until now, there had been no firm evidence that prehistoric peoples in Canada west of southern Ontario made use of this plant. Clearly at Lockport they did. This is not only the most ancient instance of horticulture in Manitoba, but also the only firm evidence of prehistoric agriculture in western Canada known to date.

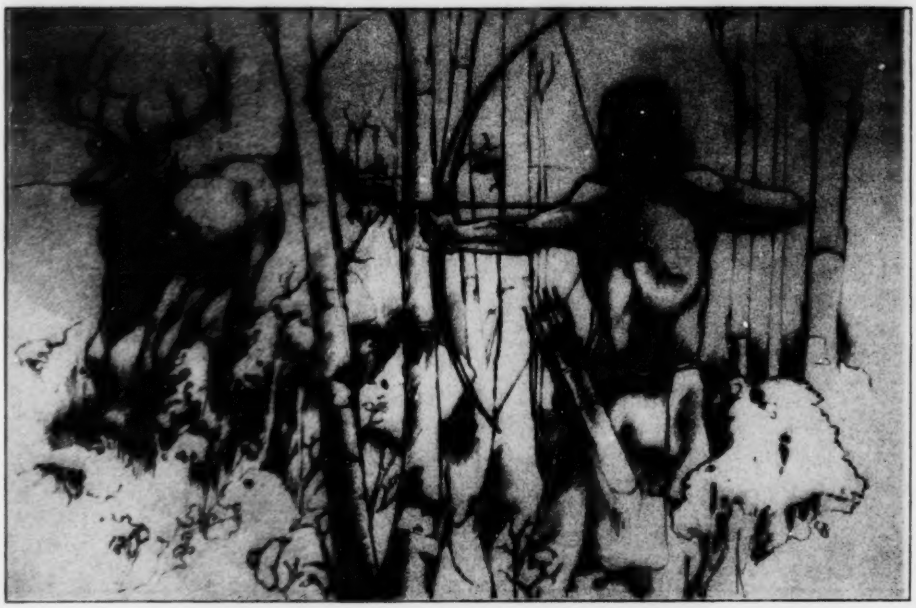


When the winter came, many of the people moved about the parkland and forests in family groups in search of game.

For centuries, inhabitants of the Red River corridor had engaged in trade with the horticultural villagers of the American Midwest and the Dakotas. Intermarriage commonly occurred and, most frequently, the southern women would return north with their husbands to take up their new lives. In 1160 AD, severe droughts struck the southern village dwellers, agriculture became unfeasible and their fields and homes were abandoned. No one knows what happened to these people, but it is shortly after this time that corn came to be grown at the Lockport Site which, like the rest of southern Manitoba, was not affected by the Midwestern drought. Virtually all of the activities surrounding prehistoric agricultural activities at Lockport are attributable to women. The tending of crops, the excavation of the distinctive bell-shaped pits for the storage of the harvest, and the grinding of the meal are all traditional activities of Native North American women. The



Blackduck pottery fragments from the Selkirk and District Planning Area, and an artist's reconstruction of a Blackduck pot based for the most part on evidence from a site on the Winnipeg River to the east. The oblique and horizontal bands are believed to have been created by pressing cord-wrapped objects into the soft clay. The circular holes are known as "punctates".

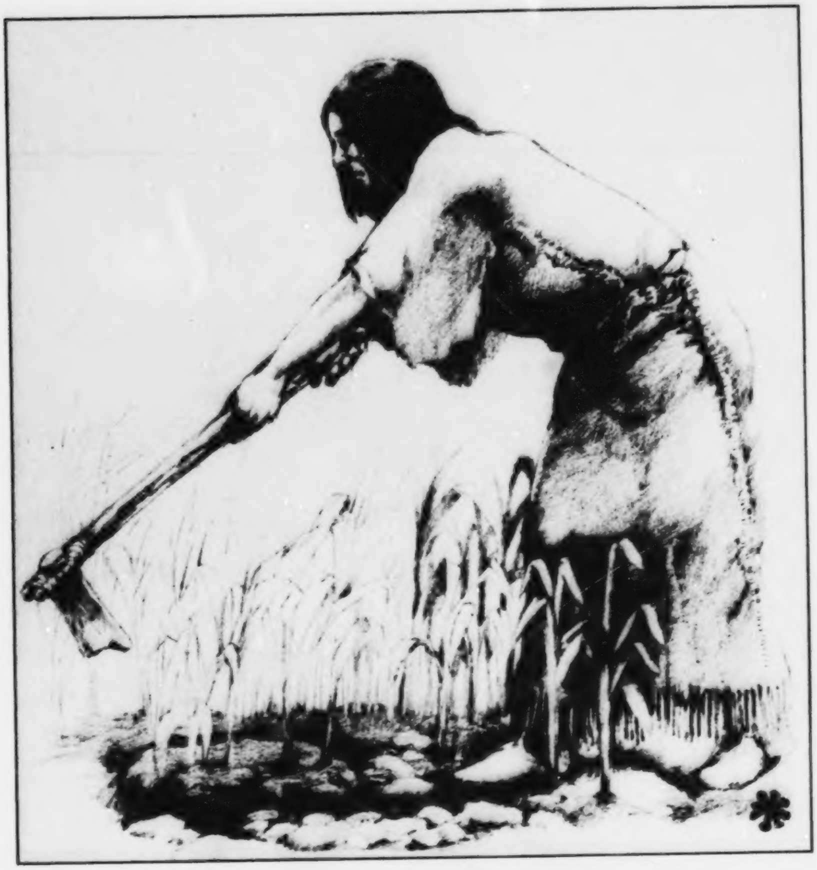


Elk were among the animals hunted by the Blackduck people for food.

manufacture of pottery is also within the activity realm of women, and some of the pots placed within the storage pits were decorated in a style distinctive of the southern farmers. Clearly it was the southern women who had married into the bands of hunters living in the Red River Valley who are responsible for the introduction of agriculture into this province. Once at Lockport, they simply continued to pursue the kinds of activities they had learned from their mothers.

But this rather unique subsistence enterprise was to be short-lived. By the middle of the sixteenth century, the climate was again changing. Farming became viable once more in the American Midwest, but a shortened growing season in southern Manitoba heralded the end of the cultivation of native corn in prehistoric Manitoba. People returned to their traditional hunting-trapping-plant collecting ways, which persisted until Native horticulture was re-introduced into the area some 250 years later.

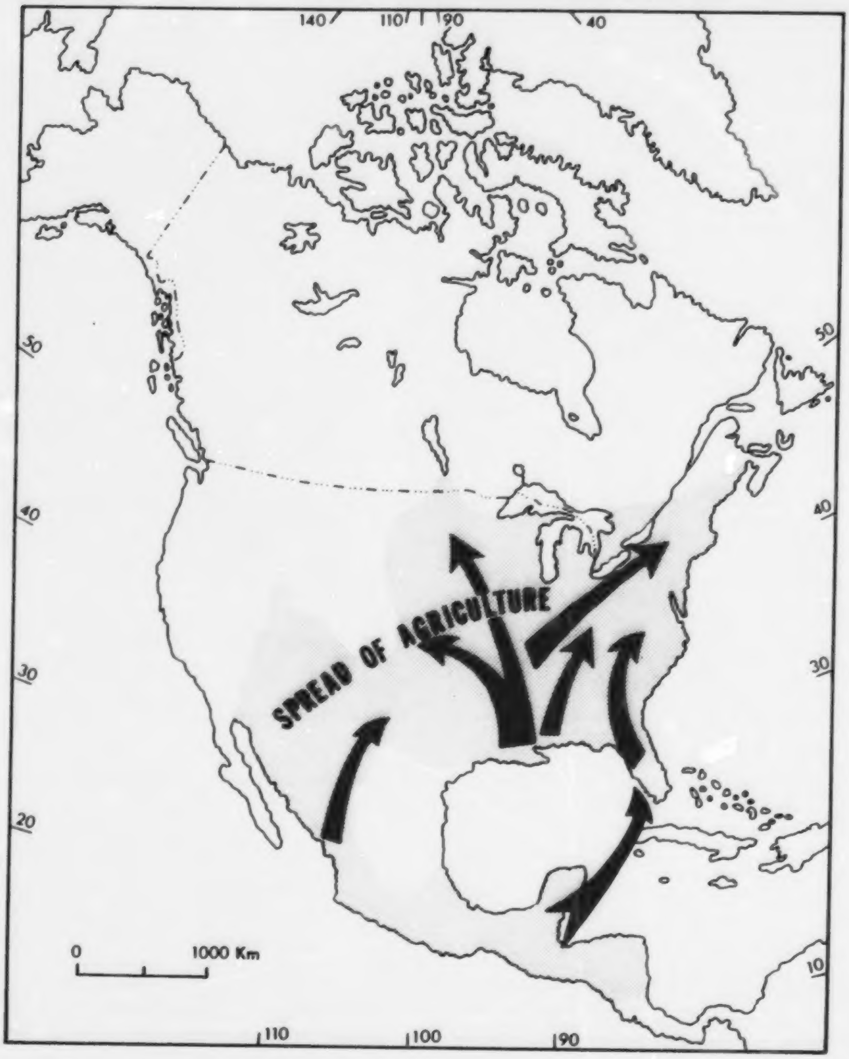
The final cultural complex of the Late Prehistoric Period is the one called "Selkirk", which dates from about 850 to 1700 AD. Located predominantly in southeastern Manitoba, this complex belonged to one of the first Native groups to be contacted by European fur traders and missionaries in this region. By virtue of shared pottery manufacturing and decorative techniques, it has been suggested that Blackduck and Selkirk ceramics were made by culturally related people. It has also been pointed out that the earliest expressions of Selkirk-type pottery are actually located in northern Manitoba, where it evolved from Laurel ware. From there it diffused, or was carried southward, to southeastern Manitoba.



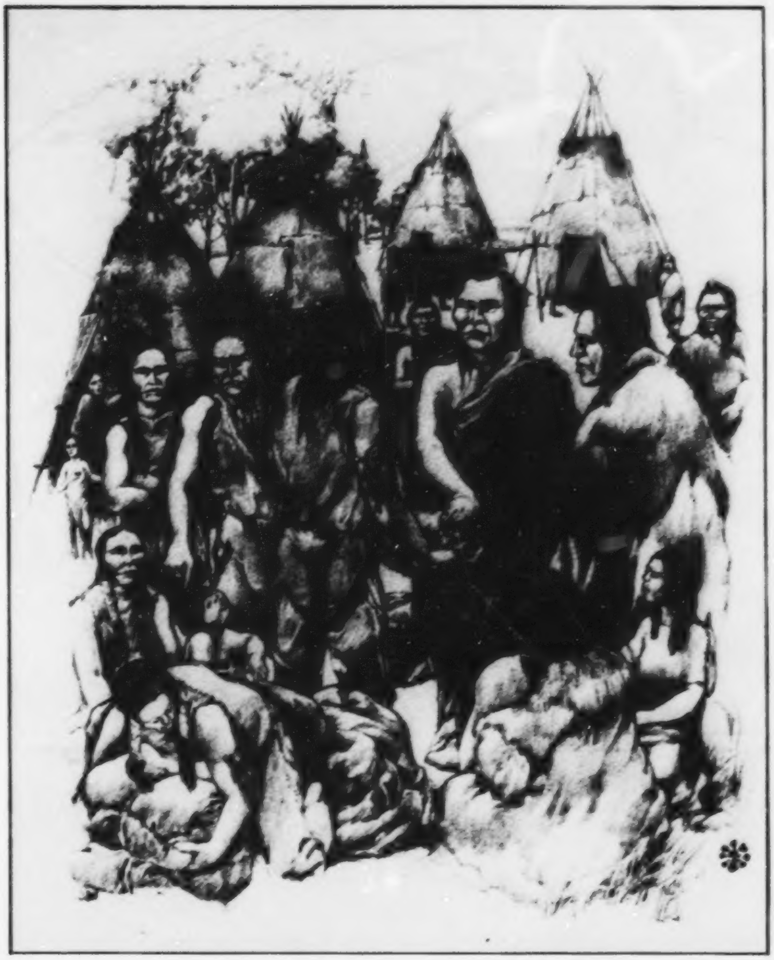
Domesticated corn was cultivated at Lockport during Late Prehistoric times with the use of the scapula hoe, as shown here.

Ceramics of the Selkirk Complex are often distinguished from those of the Blackduck Complex on the basis of a more simplified design motif on the rims. This simplicity usually shows up as a reduction in the amount of decoration that was applied. However, the stone tools used by Selkirk people are similar to their Blackduck counterparts, as are the faunal remains recovered.

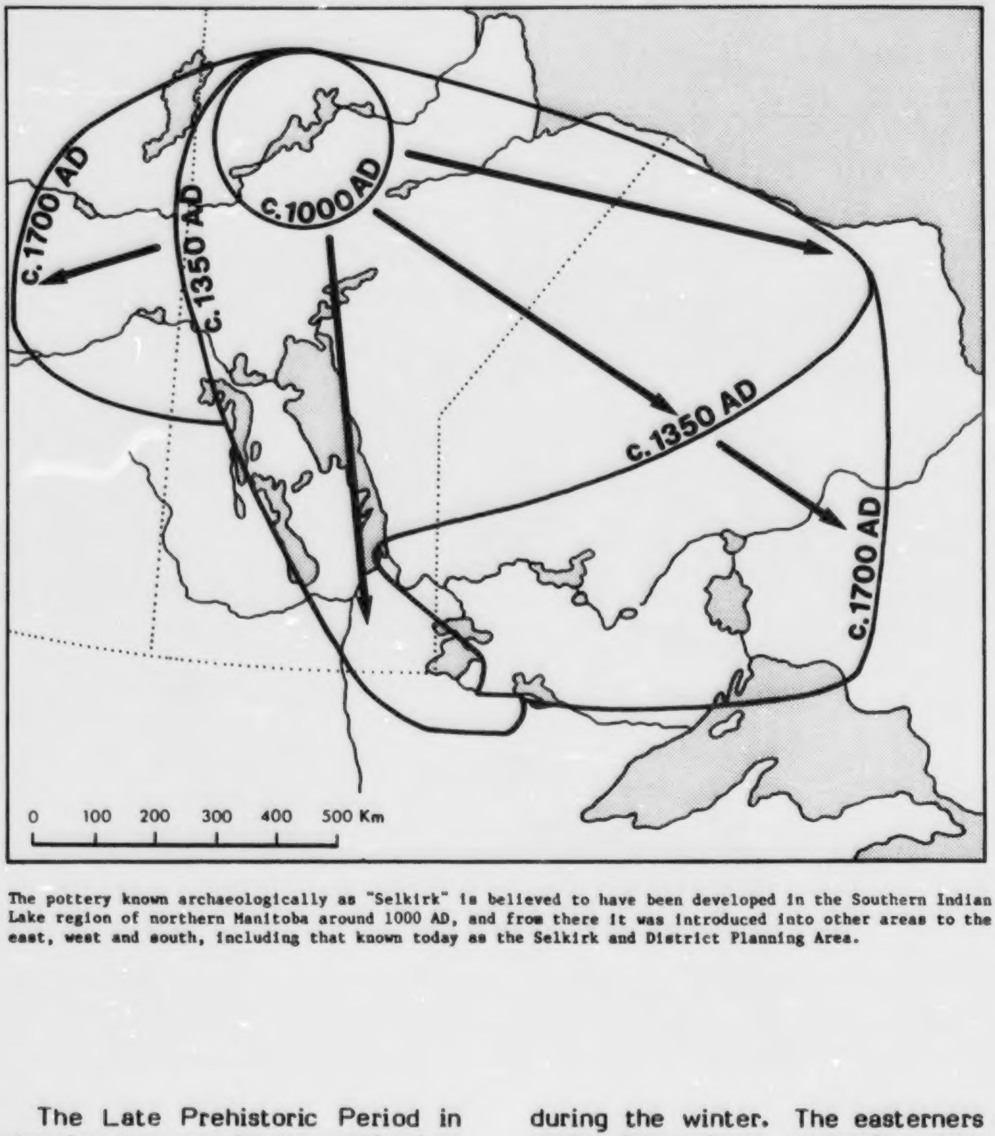
Given the degree of similarity between Blackduck and Selkirk assemblages, it is often difficult to distinguish the two components at surface sites. Selkirk components were excavated at both the Lockport and Larter sites, comprising the uppermost cultural layers at each.


140
110
90
40
50
50
40
40
30
30
20
10
SPREAD OF AGRICULTURE
0
1000 Km
110
100
90

The practice of agriculture, which originated in Mexico some 7000 years ago, finally made its appearance in southern Manitoba during the fourteenth century AD.

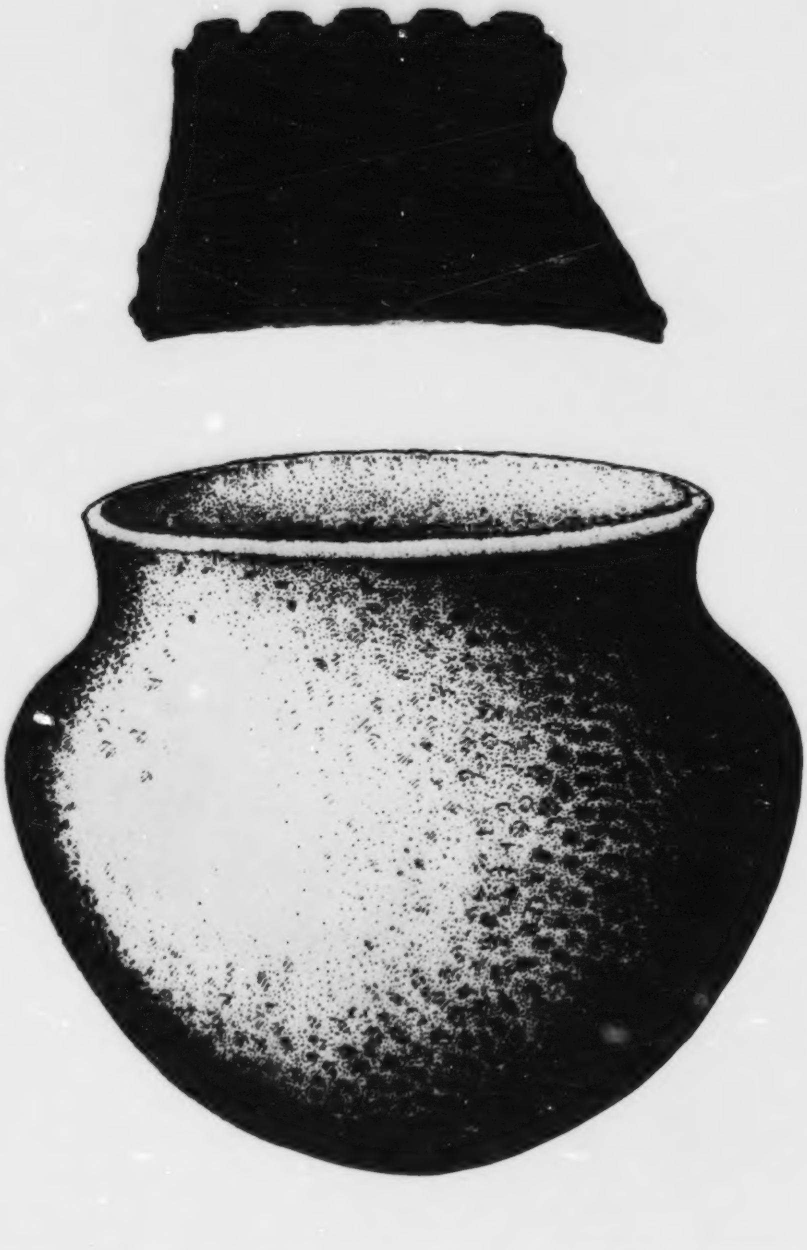


Trading relationships existed in southern Manitoba for thousands of years. From Late Prehistoric sites in the Selkirk and District Planning Area have come artifacts of copper from the Great Lakes, pipestone from Minnesota, and flint from western North Dakota. The above is a reconstruction of a trading scene.

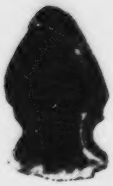


The pottery known archaeologically as "Selkirk" is believed to have been developed in the Southern Indian Lake region of northern Manitoba around 1000 AD, and from there it was introduced into other areas to the east, west and south, including that known today as the Selkirk and District Planning Area.

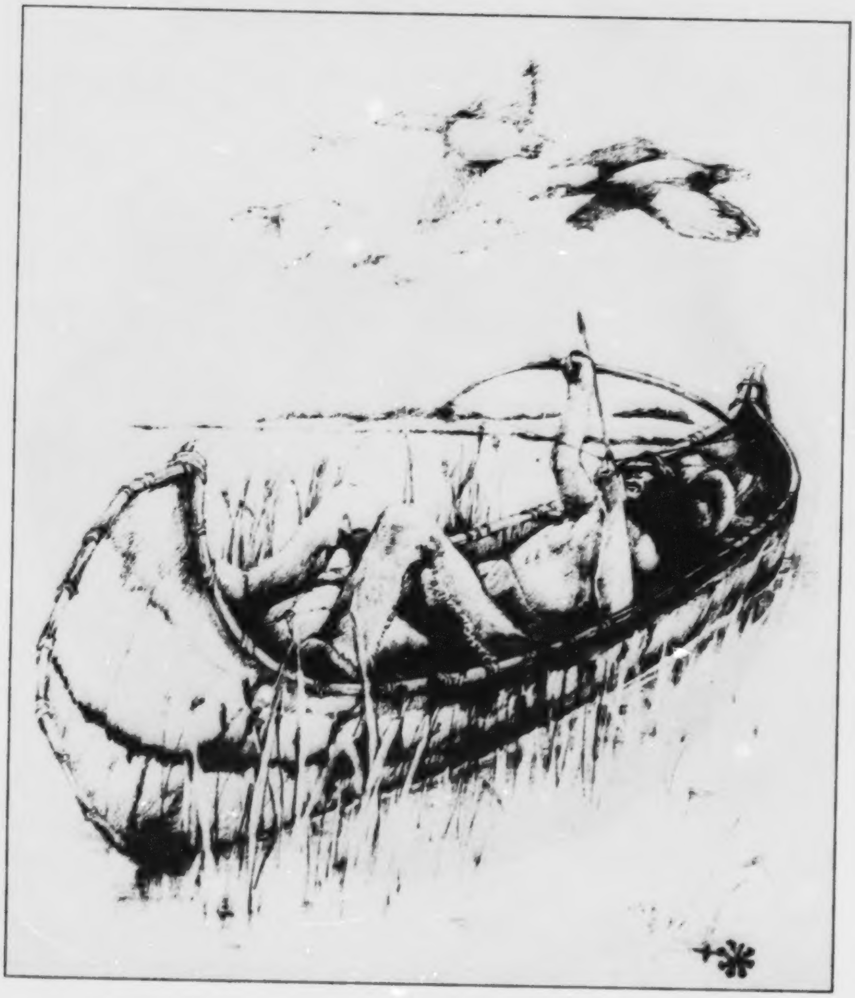
The Late Prehistoric Period in the planning area can be summarized as one of technological innovation. This was primarily the result of easterners moving into the newly-expanded forestlands of southeastern Manitoba. At the onset of the Late Prehistoric Period there were likely two separately-adapted groups using the immediate vicinity of the planning district. Plains-adapted complexes to the west, that had developed from the previous Middle Prehistoric Period, possibly utilized areas of the Red River during the winter. The easterners and their descendants probably used the riverine habitats of the district during the late spring, summer and early fall. Most of the prehistoric sites located in the district relate to the final two complexes of the period, Blackduck and Selkirk. The Lockport and Larter sites contained cultural components attributed to all three ceramic-using cultures of the period. Most of the remaining sites located throughout the planning area likely represent brief, seasonal occupations.



A fragment of "Selkirk Ware" from the Lockport Site, and an artist's reconstruction of a Selkirk-style pot.



This blunted arrow point of the Late Prehistoric Period may have been used to hunt waterfowl.



Although for centuries Native people must surely have looked to the Netley Marsh as a source of food, evidence of their activity can be very difficult to detect there archaeologically because of the very wet, densely-vegetated nature of the area.

THE HISTORIC PERIOD IN THE SELKIRK AND DISTRICT PLANNING AREA

The Historic Period in the planning area will be discussed in a somewhat different manner than was the Prehistoric section. When dealing with prehistoric cultures, archaeologists have primarily only the site materials upon which they base their various conclusions and cultural reconstructions. Historic archaeologists have the advantage of a number of additional information sources that enable them to reconstruct past lifeways. It is often possible to more accurately determine when certain events occurred, the individuals involved, and the impact of the events on other individuals. The historic record consists of a variety of sources: census records, journals, wills, trade post journals, photos, land title documents and private correspondence, to list but a few.

This report combines archival and archaeological information to form an overview of the Historic Period in the Selkirk and District Planning Area. The purposes of this chapter will be to: (1) highlight the major historical events of each period; (2) indicate the types of cultural material characteristic of that period; and (3) locate the sites within the planning area that date to the specific period.

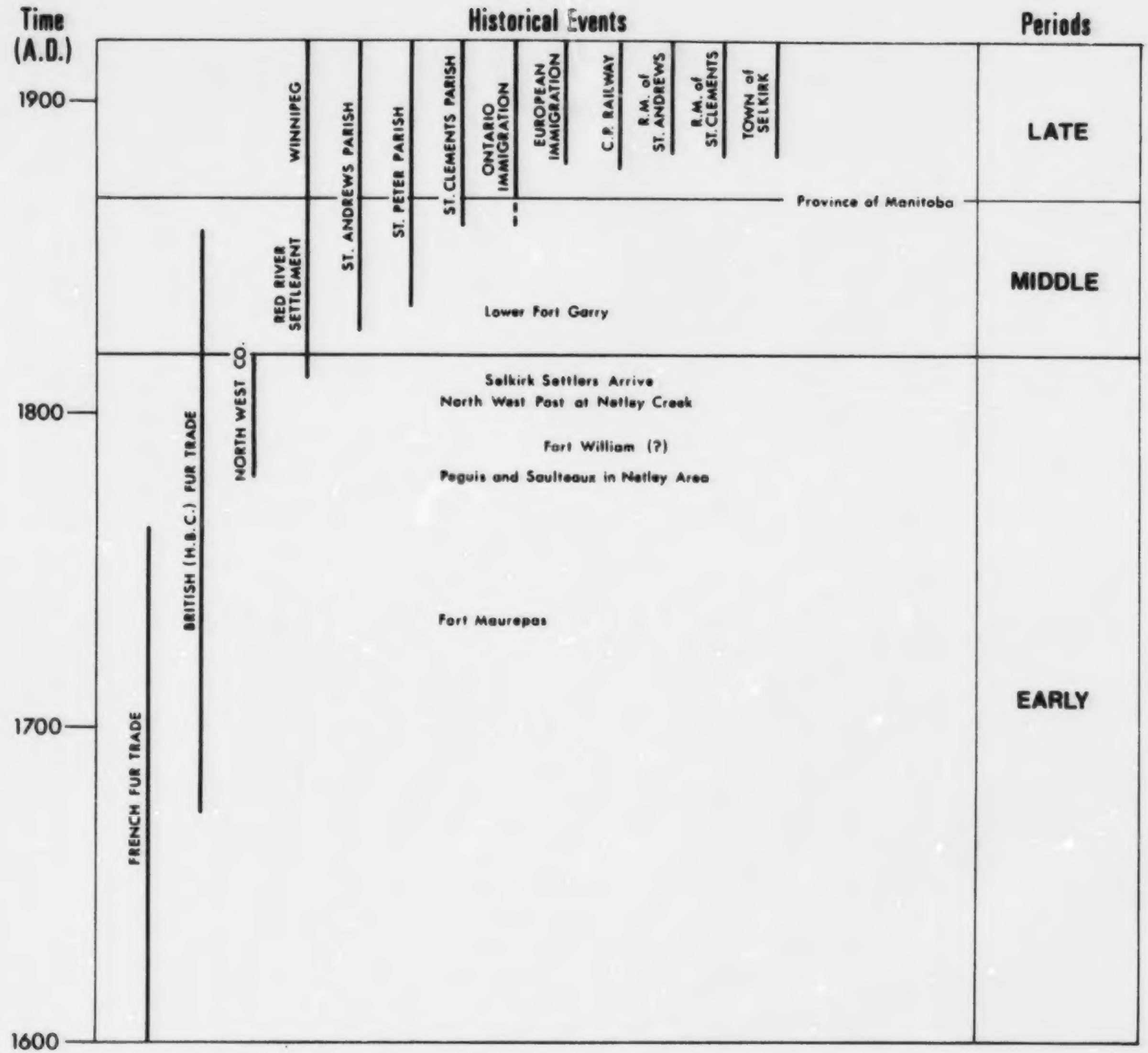
The history of the planning district is divided into three periods: Early, Middle and Late, and is based on certain historic factors that serve as definite period markers. This is unlike the Prehistoric periods, where definite climatic or technological criteria were used to demarcate periods. The three Historic periods are of unequal length, with the Early period spanning a time range of 1700 to 1821 AD, the Middle period running from 1821 to 1870 AD, and the Late Historic period dating 1870 to 1920 AD.

Early Historic Period

(1650-1821 AD)

The first documented evidence of Europeans in the area dates to 1734, when members of La Vérendrye's expedition scouted the mouth of the Red River for a suitable building site for Fort Maurepas. Prior to the 1730s, there were likely several independent traders wintering in the immediate area but no written account has been left of their activities. The Native groups that were inhabiting places such as the Lockport and Larter sites had likely heard of the European traders and/or missionaries sometime before they were actually contacted by them. This period of pre-contact is commonly referred to as the "proto-historic" period. In this report, the proto-historic period will be recognized as the Initial Phase of the Early Historic Period.

The Initial Phase of the Early Historic period was dominated by activities concerned with establishing the fur trade throughout North America. The nature of the early fur trade was one of gradual westward expansion by two main groups: the French and the British. Initially, the French began trading in eastern North America during the 1530 to 1620 period. One of the effects of these activities on the indigenous groups was a transformation from their summer get-togethers of related bands at fishing camps to summer communal villages near French posts for the trading season. The winter was still characterized by a division of these larger groups into small hunting units.



Historic periods, phases and events pertaining to the Selkirk and District Planning Area.

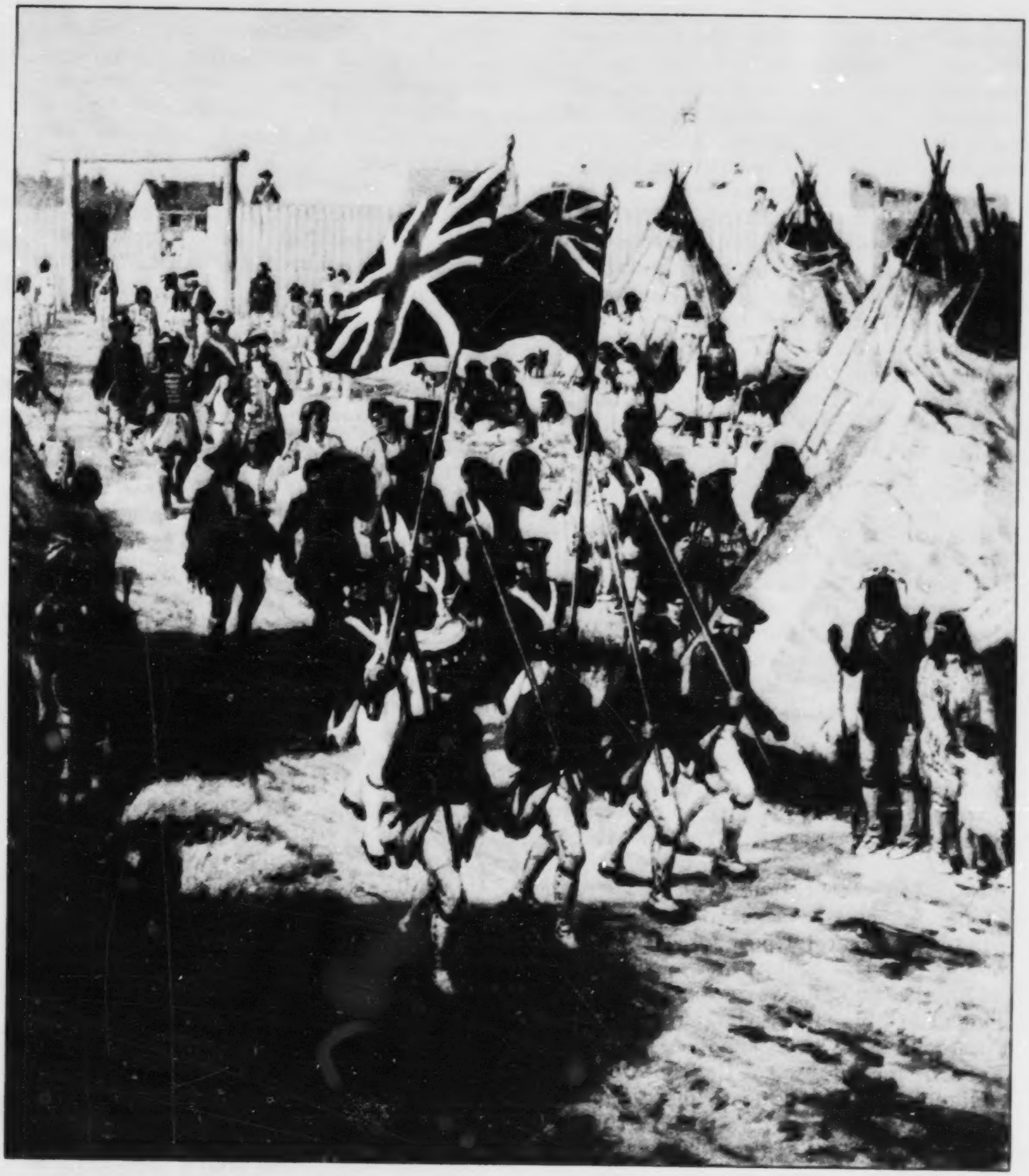
After 1620, the French pushed westward down the St. Lawrence River and eventually into the eastern edges of James Bay. During this early phase, eastern groups, such as the Huron and Ottawa, functioned as middlemen between the French and more westerly peoples. By the early 1700s, the Ottawa contacted Siouan groups along the Mississippi and Crees in the Hudson Bay area. Gradually, the French established more westerly posts, and this westward expansion was usually accompanied by a new group of middlemen dealing with the Europeans. Thus, the Ottawa displaced the Huron middlemen and, later, the Saulteaux would replace the Ottawa. The effect of the fur trade on each newly contacted Native group was likely similar to that evidenced by the eastern populations.

While the French were making inroads from the east, two other European groups contacted the Native populations. The most important of these, in terms of impact on inhabitants of the Selkirk district, were the British who, after 1670, had established posts on Hudson and James bays. The second European group to have impact on the western Native groups were the Spanish, who were responsible for introducing the horse into southwestern North America.

The establishment of the British along Hudson Bay ushered in a new era of fur trade relations for the Native people of the Selkirk area. Prior to 1670, the two Native groups who likely inhabited this area, the Cree and the Assiniboine, were involved in the French fur trade to the east. It is unlikely that they dealt directly with the French; rather, they probably traded with the Ottawa who, during the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries, acted as middlemen in areas west of French trade post establishments. After 1670, the Cree and Assiniboine were able to trade directly with the British at York Factory on the Hayes River. By the end of the seventeenth century, the Cree and Assiniboine had become middlemen in the British trade with peripheral groups in the western interior of Canada. Intense competition developed between the British and the French as well as between their various Native allies. The French began a further penetration of the west as well as military campaigns against the British along Hudson Bay.

Since groups of Cree and Assiniboine occupied the lower Red River region, it is necessary to highlight their role as middlemen in the fur trade. Initially, their involvement was not as extensive as it was during the years just before the inland expansion of the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) in the late 1770s. During the late 1600s and early 1700s, the Cree and Assiniboine made annual trading excursions to York Factory and obtained only enough European goods for their own needs. The goods they demanded did not alter significantly from year to year as, prior to the utilization of the horse, they were restricted in the amount of goods they could transport. After using the goods for about a year or two, the Cree and Assinibone would barter away the used trade items to other Native groups in exchange for furs. They would then return to York Factory and obtain new trade goods. This provided the Cree and Assiniboine with a constant supply of new trade items and also enabled them to control the types of articles, especially weapons, that the peripheral Native groups obtained.

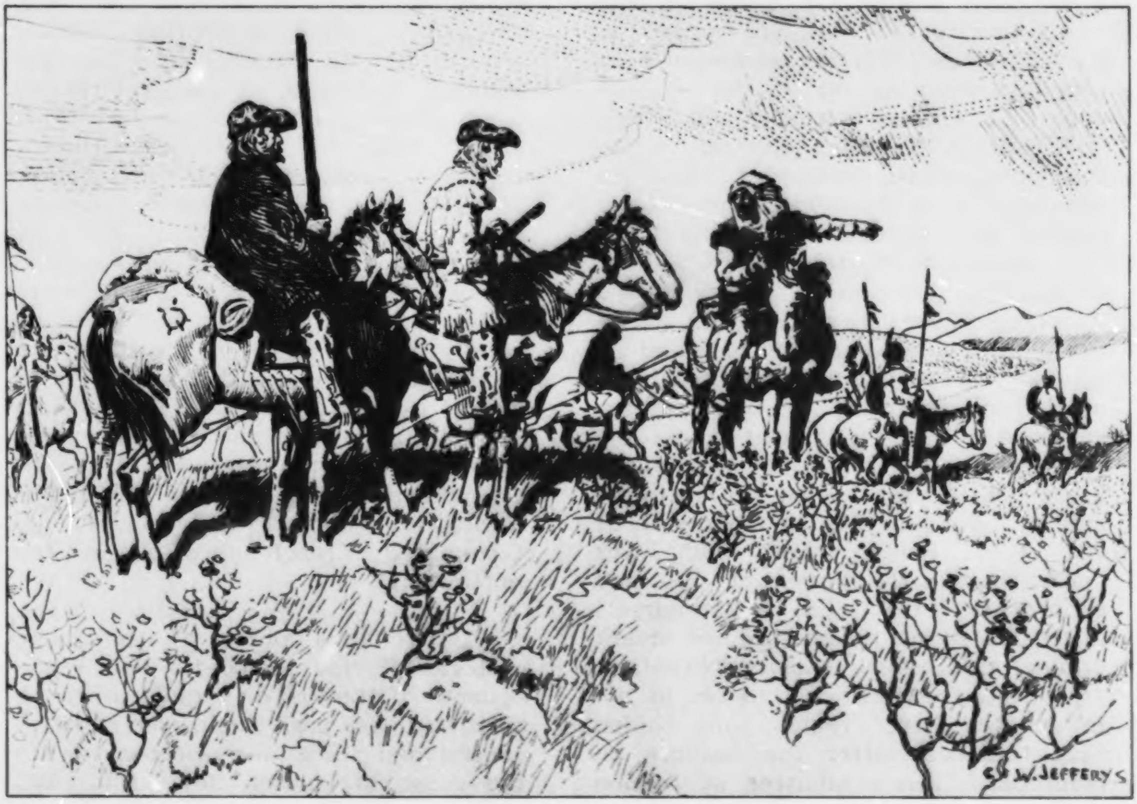
The Initial Phase of the Early Historic Period was characterized by an intense rivalry between the British and French as each struggled for control of trading groups and coastal trade posts.



Trading ceremony at York Factory during the 1780s. The use of the York Factory site as a major trading centre went back a full century prior to this.

For a twenty-year period, 1694 to 1713, the French controlled York Factory and dealt with the Cree-Assiniboine middlemen. The French, having agreed to return all coastal Hudson Bay posts to the British under the 1713 Treaty of Utrecht, expanded their trade network throughout the western interior of North America.

The Middle Phase of the Early Historic period began about 1730 when the French, in reponse to losing control of the Hudson Bay area, began a westward penetration of North America. Their primary objective was to tap into the York Factory hinterland by reviving trade relations with the Cree and Assiniboine. The leading individual involved in this expansion was Pierre Gaultier de Varennes Sieur de La Vérendrye. La Vérendrye's second objective for journeying into the northwest was the exploration of the northwest route to the Orient. Most early Europeans were convinced that a "Western Sea" lay in close proximity to the eastern coast of New France and that a navigable route to this sea existed.



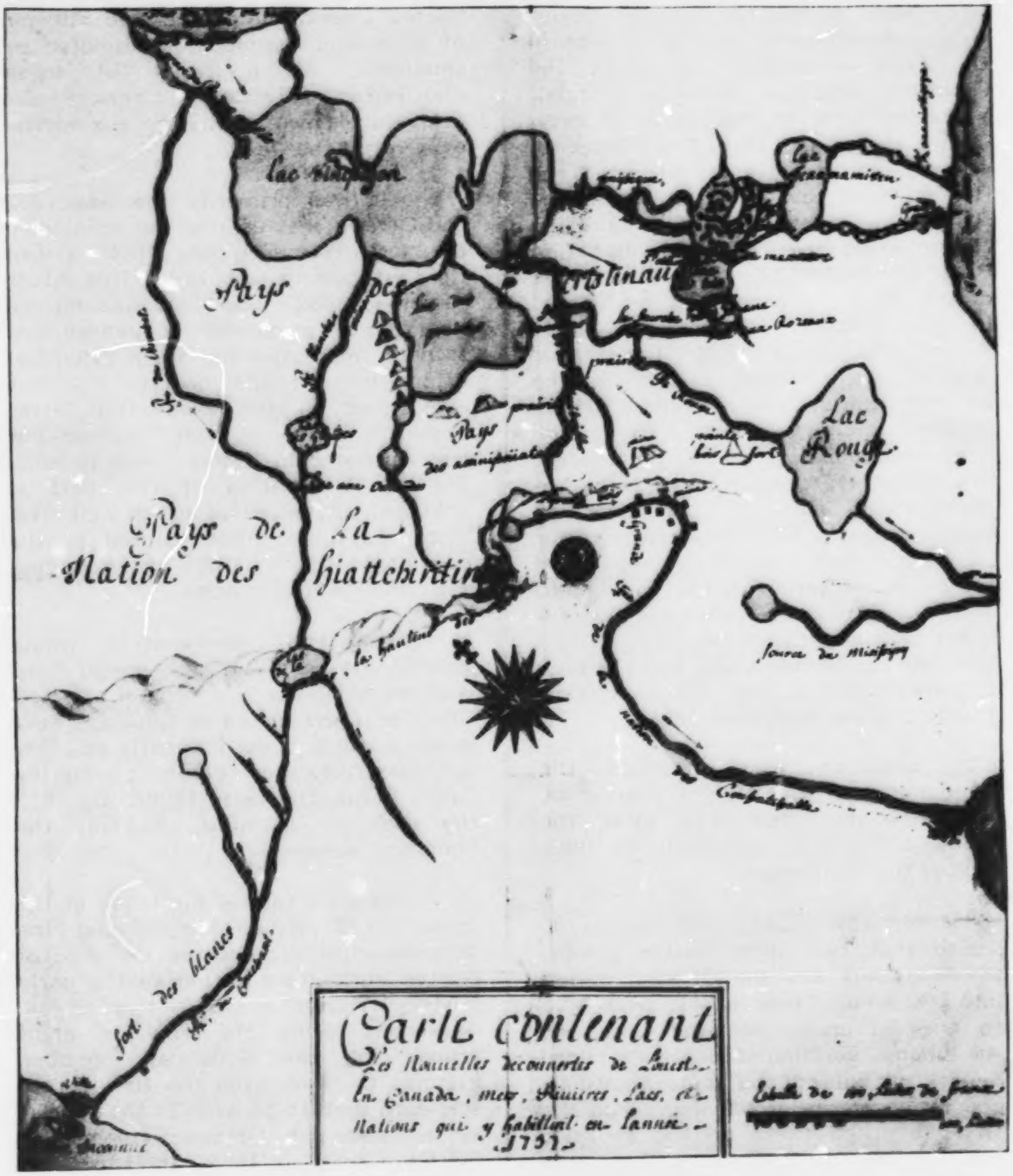
This picture commemorates the sighting of the Western Mountains by the Brothers La Vérendrye on New Year's Day, 1743. Before their journey westward, the La Vérendryes built several posts in southern Manitoba, one of them in the planning area.

Although the King of France, Louis XIV, and the Governor of New France, Governor Beauharnois, condoned La Vérendrye's activities, the task of financing the operation was solely La Vérendrye's responsibility. He accomplished this by securing exclusive control to the French trade in the northwest from the Governor of New France. In addition, speculating merchants from New France outfitted La Vérendrye with trade items, anticipating a portion of the furs that he would obtain from the Native groups.

La Vérendrye's westward progress was exceedingly slow, and after setting out in June of 1731, a small advance party wintered on the west shore of Rainy Lake at the newly-constructed Fort St. Pierre. In the spring of 1732, the westward push was continued as far as the western edge of the Lake of the Woods, where Fort St. Charles was erected. From this post, in the spring of 1733, La Vérendrye sent one of his sons and a nephew to reconnoiter a location for the next fort in the chain he was establishing. An ice block along the Winnipeg River prevented this initial party from achieving their goal and La Vérendrye's second son, Pierre, was sent the following spring. Pierre returned to Fort St. Charles in May and reported that the most convenient place for the post was on the southwest side of Lake Winnipeg at the mouth of the Red River. The post was constructed in the autumn of 1734, and according to La Vérendrye's instructions, was to measure one square arpent. One arpent is about 59 metres. This post, the first constructed in the lower Red River region, was named Fort Maurepas after the Compte de Maurepas, French Minister of Marine and the Colonies from 1723 to 1749. The exact location of Fort Maurepas is not known, for although the post was to be built at the mouth of the Red River, a lack of building supplies at that location forced a move of 5 French leagues upstream (a French league is theoretically equivalent to 3.9 km but varied from 4.0 to 4.9 km). Furthermore, it is not known how this distance was measured. The location of Fort Maurepas has usually been estimated to be on the west bank of the Red River about 8.0 to 9.6 km north of Selkirk. Fort Maurepas was operated for about six years and, after explorations were advanced further up the Red and Assiniboine rivers, two new posts were constructed: Fort Rouge and Fort La Reine.

It would appear that after 1740, the Red River was used as a connecting route between the Assiniboine and Winnipeg rivers. La Vérendrye was concerned with contacting Native groups to the south, such as the Mandan, and most of his explorations were conducted from Fort La Reine after 1740. La Vérendrye withdrew from the northwest in 1743 and died in Montreal six years later. The French regime continued to operate some of the La Vérendrye posts on an intermittent basis and these were collectively known as the "Postes du Nord". Following the outbreak of the Seven Years War in 1757, all Postes du Nord, except Fort La Reine, were gradually closed because of the cost and the need for personnel to defend New France. The end of the Seven Years War and the 1763 Treaty of Paris terminated French interest in the northwest.

The final phase of the Early Historic Period coincides with the collapse of the French regime when the northwest was once again under British control and trade was oriented toward the coast of Hudson Bay. This HBC trade monopoly moderated during the last three decades of the eighteenth century, when independent fur traders from Montreal entered the northwest using the routes established by La


lac ouinipigon
Pays des cristinaux
Lac Rouge
Pays des assinipoualak
Pays de la Nation des hiattchiritiny
source du Missisipy
fort des blancs
Carte contenant
Les Nouvelles decouvertes de Louest
En Canada, mers, Rivieres, Lacs, et
Nations qui y habittent en lannée
1737
Echelle de 100 lieues de France

LaVérendrye's map of 1737 showing his perception of the geography of what is now southern Manitoba and adjoining regions, and the distribution of the Native peoples: Nation des hiattchiritiny (term used by the Cree to denote the Blackfeet), cristinaux (Cree), assinipouatack (Assiniboine), Couhatchatte (Cree name for Mandan). "Lac des prairies" is Lake Manitoba and "Kamimistigoya" is the present Thunder Bay, Ontario. Note that Fort Maurepas is incorrectly located at the juncture of the Red and Assiniboine rivers, whereas the location of the first Fort Maurepas is denoted "Fort abandonné".

Vérendrye. One of the earliest traders in the planning area was Forrest Oakes who, with his partner Charles Boyer, built a small wintering post in 1766 in the Dynevor region. In 1770, the Frobisher brothers operated a small wintering post in the same vicinity. During the remainder of the eighteenth century, the fur traders bypassed the Red River in favour of the Assiniboine River. The construction of Cumberland House along the North Saskatchewan River by the HBC in 1774 caused most of the fur trade activity to be located in the western interior of Canada. After 1774, the British then dealt directly with Native groups in the western interior, which state of affairs negated the need for the Cree-Assiniboine middlemen. Unfortunately, their role as such had made them not only dependent on European goods, but also ineffective fur trappers. This caused a west and southwest migration of the two groups onto the grasslands to hunt bison for trade provisions with the HBC. From the late 1770s to 1800, there was a withdrawal of the Cree and Assiniboine from the lower Red River region.

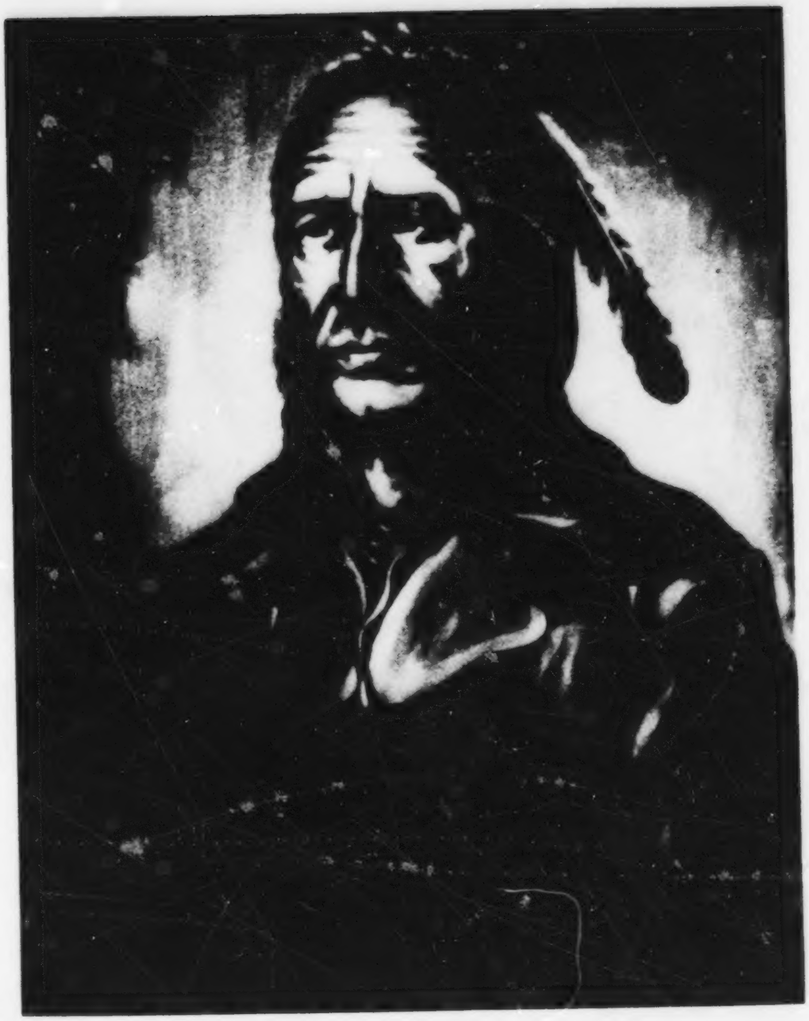
Smallpox also affected the demography of the Native population, especially the Cree who, after the 1780s, lost about one-third of their number to this disease.

It was during the post-1780 period that two other Native groups, the Saulteaux and the Ottawa, moved into the area. These people were able to trap in areas that the Cree and Assiniboine considered depleted. Lord Selkirk estimated the male Saulteaux population at about 200 men when the first Selkirk Settlers arrived in 1812. The exact time of the Saulteaux-Ottawa expansion into the area is not known, but it may have been closely linked with the smallpox epidemics of the 1780s. Tradition states that Peguis and his followers migrated into the region and, upon their arrival at the mouth of present-day Netley Creek, discovered two villages of Cree and Assiniboine decimated by smallpox. As a result of these discoveries, Netley Creek was originally known as Rivière aux Morts, or River of the Dead.

It was primarily the Saulteaux and Ottawa that utilized our area when the North West Company (NWC) opened its first post in the lower Red River region in 1802. The NWC was formed in 1784 by a number of independent traders who organized their individual efforts into a single concern. The first NWC post in the lower Red River region was opened near Dynevor but was relocated to Netley Creek in 1803. The exact location of this post is unknown but, based on an 1815 archival map, may have been located at the confluence of the three channels that form the Red River delta.

The HBC operated a small provisioning and trade post, Fort William, along the east bank of the Red River near the mouth of Cook's Creek. It was possibly opened as early as 1796, but was relocated closer to Netley Creek during the early 1800s. By 1815 the post lay in ruins and only the chimneys remained.

Related to the fur trade in the lower Red River region is the northern-most documented evidence of Native agriculture dating to the early Historic Period -- at Netley Creek. Alexander Henry the Younger, chief trader for the NWC at Pembina, claimed to have given the first potato and corn seed to be sown in the district to a group of Ottawas camped at Netley Creek in 1805. It is possible that gardens were tended somewhat earlier than Henry states, as both the Saulteaux and Ottawa migrated from the Great Lakes area where horticulture was practiced since c. 1000



Chief Peguis.

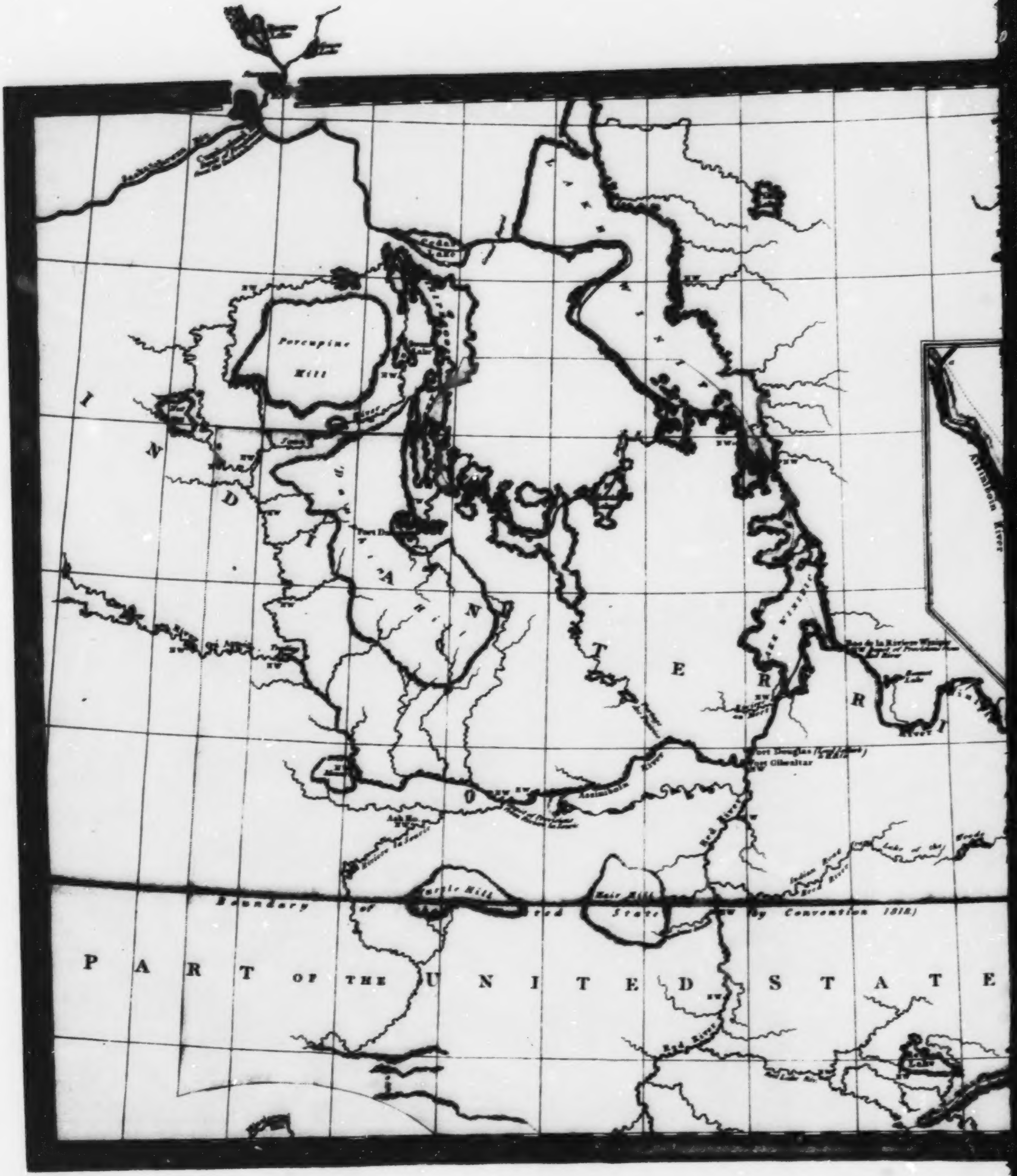
AD. During the early 1700s, the Cree and Assiniboine made trading expeditions to the Mandan villages along the Missouri River for agricultural goods. The Ottawa and Saulteaux could have also obtained seed from the Mandan or from the HBC at Brandon House, on the Assiniboine River, where gardens were tended as early as 1796.

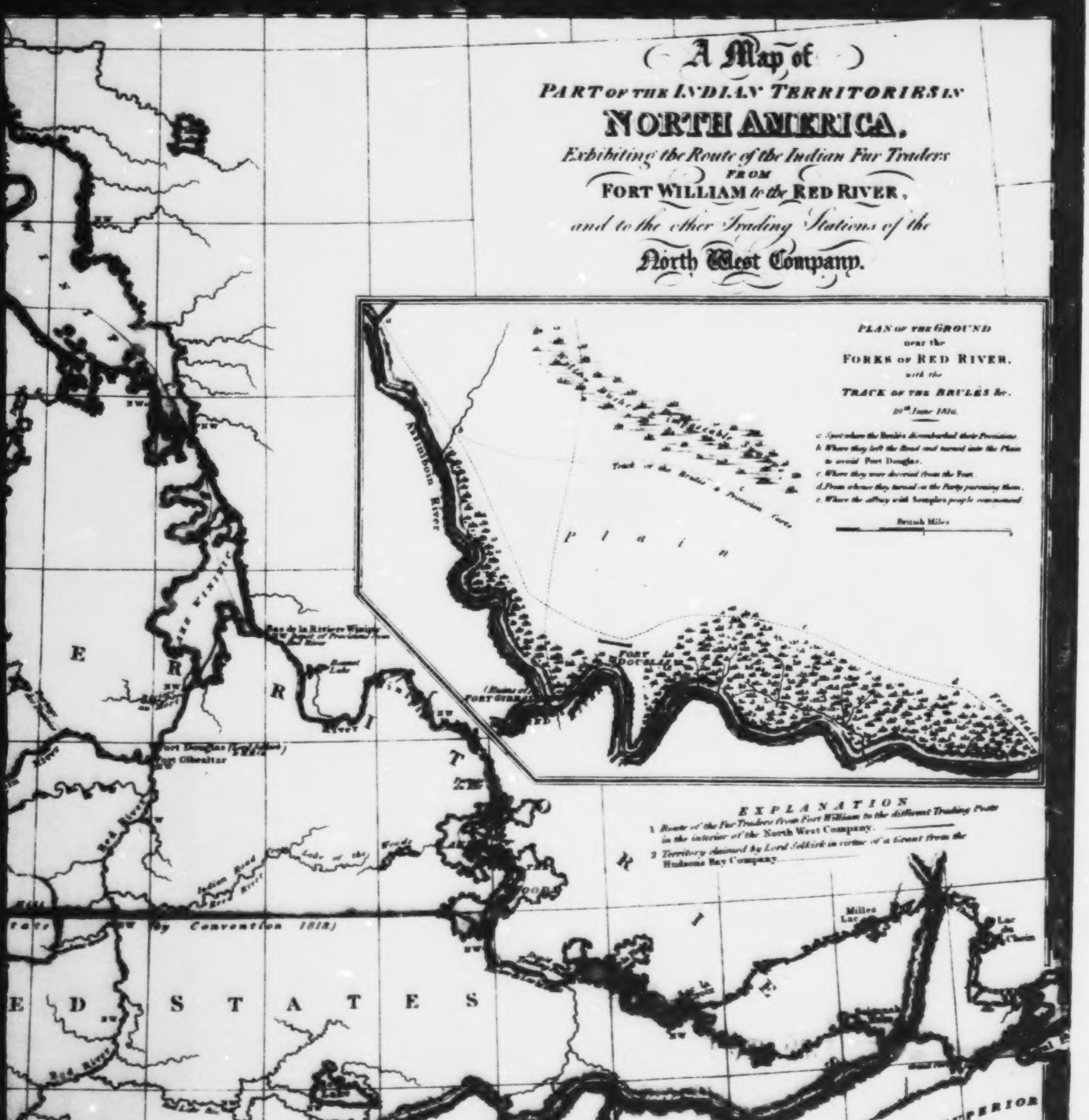
More important than pinpointing the date of Early Historic Period horticulture is the fact that the Netley Marsh area represents the northern-most limit of Indian agriculture. The Ottawa and Saulteaux probably kept their gardens on levees within the marsh. Around 1812, the Ottawa moved to the Lake Roseaux area because their gardens were being pillaged. The Saulteaux remained in the Netley locality and, by the time of the arrival of the Selkirk Settlers, conducted only a limited amount of agriculture.

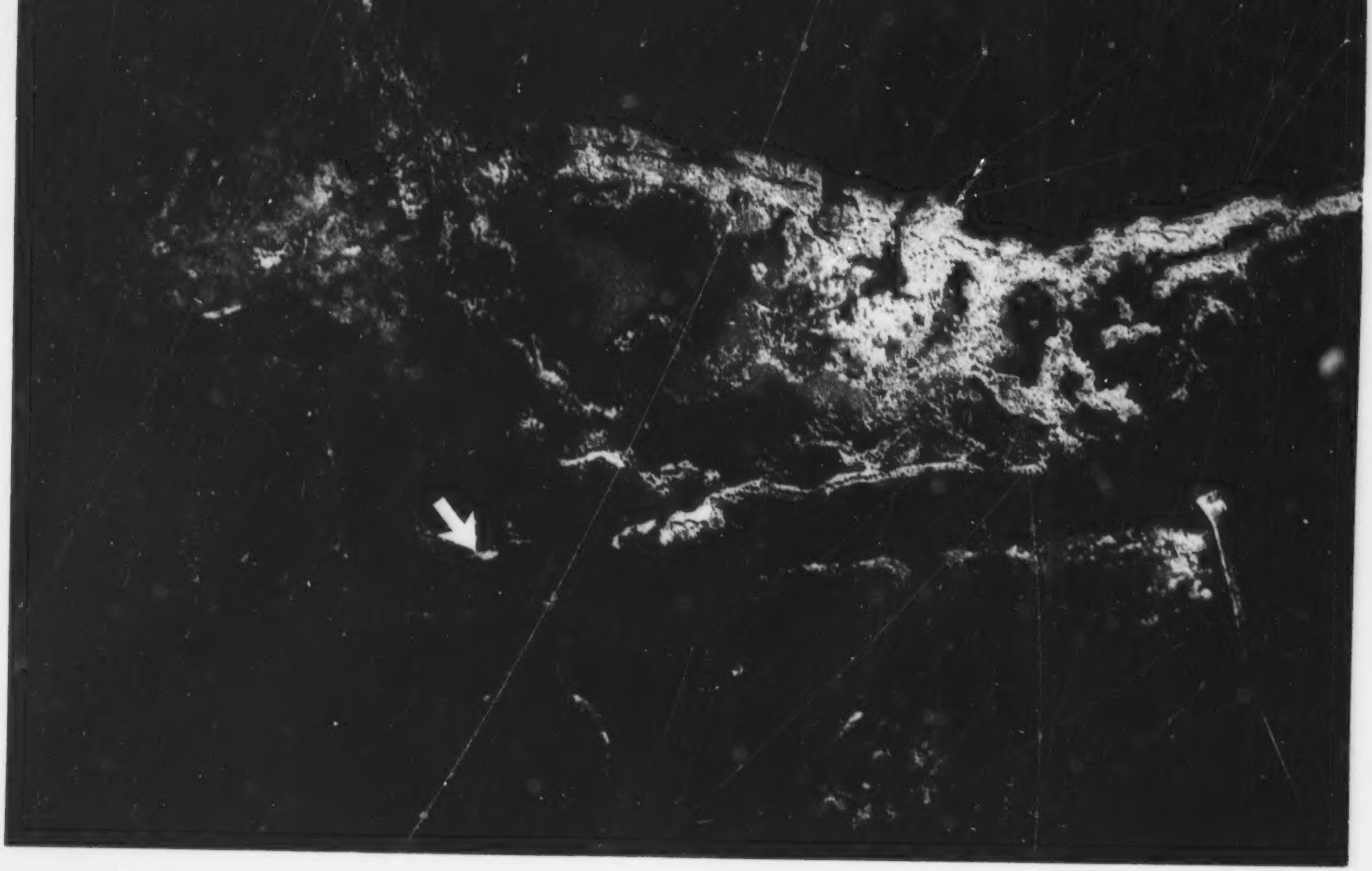
Saulteaux lodges on the banks of the Red River.

The establishment and growth of the Selkirk settlement will be briefly summarized, as these events occurred outside of the Selkirk and District Planning Area. The greatest obstacles faced by the settlers in the years following 1812 were a lack of provisions and the opposition of the NWC employees. Peguis and his followers were employed by the settlers as provisioners and also as middlemen between the settlers, the NWC employees, and the Cree and Assiniboine as well. In 1815, relations with the NWC were severed after Macdonnell's Pemmican Proclamation, which forebade pemmican and other provisions to be exported out of Assiniboia. During that same year, Peguis guided the colonists down the Red River and through Lake Winnipeg to the Jack River Post -- the present-day Norway House. When Governor Semple returned with the colonists in 1816, Peguis offered the services of seventy of his men to help the settlers. Semple refused this offer, as he felt there was no immediate danger. Following the incident at Seven Oaks, in which a brief skirmish between the colonists and NWC personnel resulted in the deaths of Semple and nineteen settlers, Peguis and his followers collected the bodies of the slain, buried them and once again guided the remaining colonists to Jack River. In January of 1817, Peguis and nine men helped Macdonnell retake Fort Douglas.

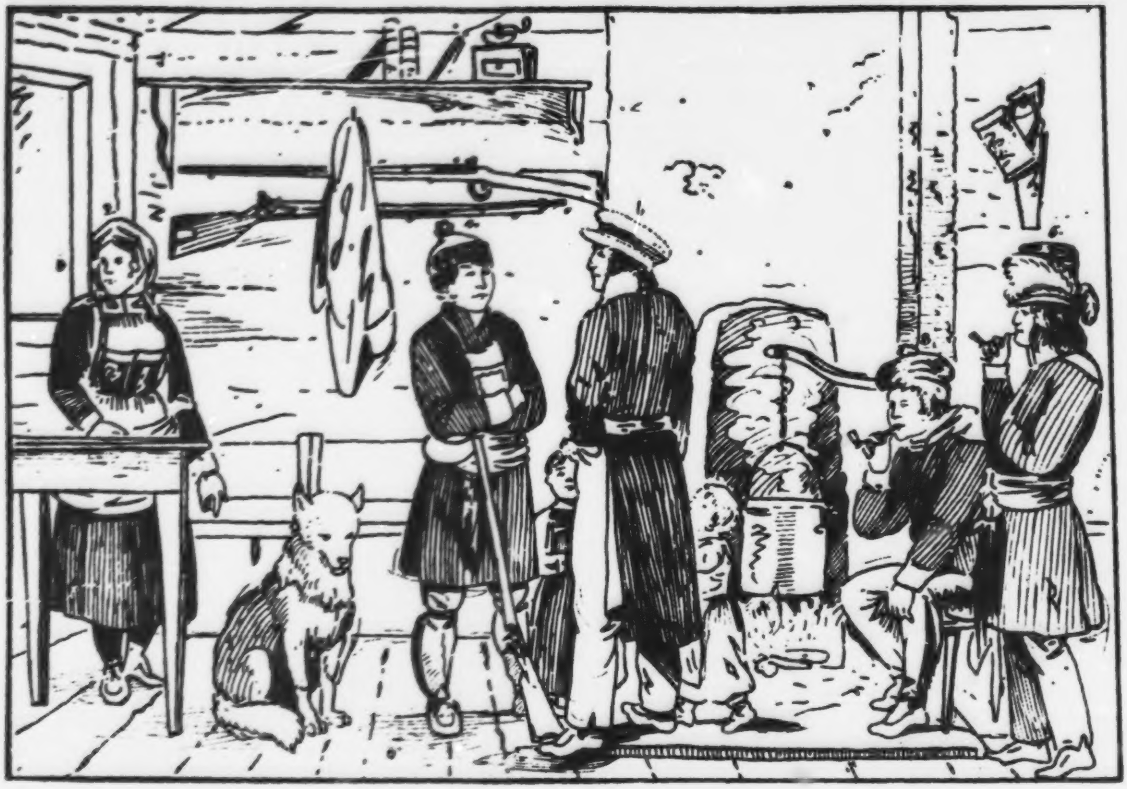
The Selkirk Treaty was signed in July 1817 and, as a consequence of that document, Peguis tentatively relinquished land from the forks of the Red and Assiniboine rivers north to Sugar Point. After this date, the Saulteaux were primarily located in the lower regions of the Red River and maintained a seasonal round of activity conducted by summer communal fishing groups and winter family hunting units.


Saskatchewan River
Cedar Lake
Porcupine Hill
INDIAN TERRITORY
Fort Dauphin
Lake Winipic
Bas de la Riviere Winipic
Fort Douglas
Fort Gibraltar
Assiniboin River
Red River
Riviere la Souris
Ash Ho.
Turtle Hill
Hair Hill
Indian Road
Lake of the Woods
Red Lake
Lake
NW
Boundary of the United States by Convention 1818)
PART OF THE UNITED STATES
Assiniboin River


A Map of
PART OF THE INDIAN TERRITORIES IN
NORTH AMERICA,
Exhibiting the Route of the Indian Fur Traders
FROM
FORT WILLIAM to the RED RIVER,
and to the other Trading Stations of the
North West Company.
PLAN OF THE GROUND
near the
FORKS OF RED RIVER,
with the
TRACK OF THE BRULÉS &c.
19th June 1816.
a. Spot where the Brulés disembarked their Provisions.
b. Where they left the Road and turned into the Plain to avoid Fort Douglas.
c. Where they were descried from the Fort.
d. From whence they turned on the Party pursuing them.
e. Where the affray with Semple's people commenced.
British Miles
Assiniboin River
Track of the Brulés & Provision Carts
Plain
FORT DOUGLAS
(Ruins of) FORT GIBRALTAR
Frog Plain
EXPLANATION
1 Route of the Fur Traders from Fort William to the different Trading Posts in the interior of the North West Company.
2 Territory claimed by Lord Selkirk in virtue of a Grant from the Hudsons Bay Company.
Bas de la Riviere Winipic
Fort Douglas
Fort Gibraltar
Red River
Indian Road
Reed River
Lake of the Woods
by Convention 1818
E R R I T O R I E
E D S T A T E S
Milles Lac
Lac du Chien
Red River
LAKE SUPERIOR
NW



Aerial photograph of the confluence of Netley Creek and the Red River. The arrow points to a levee of the sort upon which the Saulteaux and Ottawa grew their gardens in the early 1800s.



Artist's sketch of Selkirk Settlers, 1822.

The final event of the Early Historic Period is the 1821 amalgamation of the HBC and the NWC. The effects of poor financial management within the NWC were evident as early as 1814, and by July of 1821 the company was absorbed by the HBC.

* * *

Archaeological evidence of the Early Historic Period is uncommon throughout the planning area. At the Lockport Site, occupied from Middle to Late Prehistoric times, there is an absence of cultural materials that date between the prehistoric Selkirk Complex and the post-1821 Middle Historic Period. Dr. Arthur Ray, a historical geographer, has hypothesized that the early period would not be locally evident throughout western Canada due to a widely-spread but thin distribution of second-hand items traded by middlemen over a large geographic area. Very few early contact Native sites have been excavated west of the Great Lakes. Most archaeological studies of the early period have been confined to trade post sites. Dr. J.V. Wright, of the Canadian Museum of Civilization, has analyzed material from an Early Historic site at the mouth of the Pic River on the north shore of Lake Superior. Three definite strata were identified and the uppermost level contained a mixture of fur trade and aboriginal artifacts. Based on the trade goods, Wright estimated the date of this stratum to be approximately 1700 AD. Table 2 summarizes the artifacts recovered in the Early Historic stratum at Pic River, and the range of artifacts indicated is representative of an Early Historic Period assemblage from a Native habitation site. A trade post assemblage would probably be similar to that listed in Table 2, although the frequency of specific artifact classes would be dissimilar.

A number of factors may account for the scarcity of Early Historic sites in the planning area. One possibility is that the 120 years this period spans is too narrow a time interval to be identified on the basis of a few dateable artifacts. As can be seen from Table 2, the largest percentage of artifacts at the site is not that easy to date, and a majority of these items were actually used during both the Early and Middle Historic periods. A second consideration is that Native groups may have abandoned the lower Red River region as a result of it being either a poor fur region or that it was overtrapped in a short period of time. Third, the absence of obvious pre-1821 sites could possibly be an indication of an abandonment of traditional lifeways by the Cree and Assiniboine. Recall that in eastern Canada one effect of the fur trade on the eastern Algonquian groups was an abandonment of traditional patterns, such as the summer communal fishing camps.

An extensive search for Fort Maurepas was conducted along the Red River in 1983 by the Historic Resources Branch of Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Recreation under contract to the Manitoba ARC Authority Inc. No post location was found and it was hypothesized that either the immediate geographic area was too large to adequately sample, and therefore the post location was missed, or else the remains of the fort had long since disappeared due to extensive erosion along the banks of the Red River.

The HBC post Fort William may in fact have been found during the 1984 survey. A local collection from the Dynevor area contained several artifacts that dated to the early nineteenth century. Early Historic artifacts were also recorded at a site in the same vicinity. Other than these isolated finds, the Early Historic Period is largely under-represented in the planning area.

Middle Historic Period

(1821-1870 AD)

This period begins with the 1821 merger of the HBC and the NWC and ends with Manitoba's entry into Confederation. During this period, the Selkirk planning area, as well as the rest of Manitoba, changed significantly. The major activities in the planning area were centred around the fur trade and homesteading.

After the 1821 amalgamation, a seasonal trading post was still maintained at Netley Creek. There was also an HBC establishment, consisting of a few tents and about sixty horses, about a ten-minute paddle downstream from the Netley-Red junction. The horses were picketted under bison robe tents and fires were kindled to drive away mosquiitoes and sandflies. These animals, used to transport goods from the Red River Settlement to Brandon House, were kept in the marsh close to hayland.

The HBC post at Netley Creek was still in operation in 1824, for in that year Governor George Simpson attached this post to the Winnipeg River District. The Netley post was still in operation three years later and George Setter was postmaster. In all probability, the Netley Creek post was closed shortly after 1831, when Lower Fort Garry was constructed.

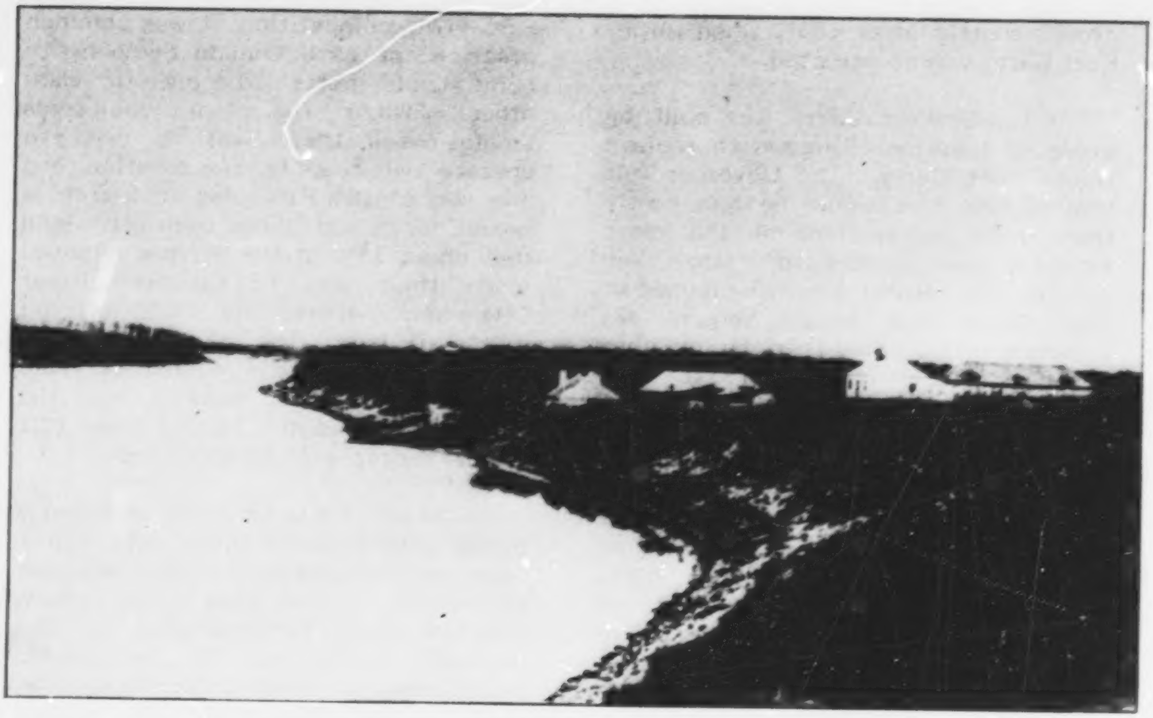
Lower Fort Garry was built by order of Governor Simpson to replace Upper Fort Garry. The Governor felt that a new fort would be less costly than major renovations at the older establishment. Simpson also had several agricultural schemes planned at Red River that would require his presence and decided that the buildings at the Lower Fort would serve as a Governor's residence.

The site for the new fort was selected by Simpson at the lower end of Pelican, or Grand, Rapids due to its elevation and the abundance of building material on the opposite river bank. Construction of the Big House, or Officer's Quarters, began in the fall of 1830 and was completed by 1832. Other structures, such as the retail store and store houses, were constructed opposite and adjacent to the Big House in the 1830s and 1840s. However, trade at Upper Fort Garry was too well established to transfer the business to the Lower Fort. Therefore, during its first years of existence, the stone fort remained open for the benefit of the settlers in the lower portion of the settlement. This situation altered during the mid-1850s as Lower Fort Garry gradually became the major provisioning centre for the fur trade in Western Canada. This period also coincides with increased industrial and agricultural activities at the fort. Two major developments, ship-building and an experimental farm, were started after the 1850s.

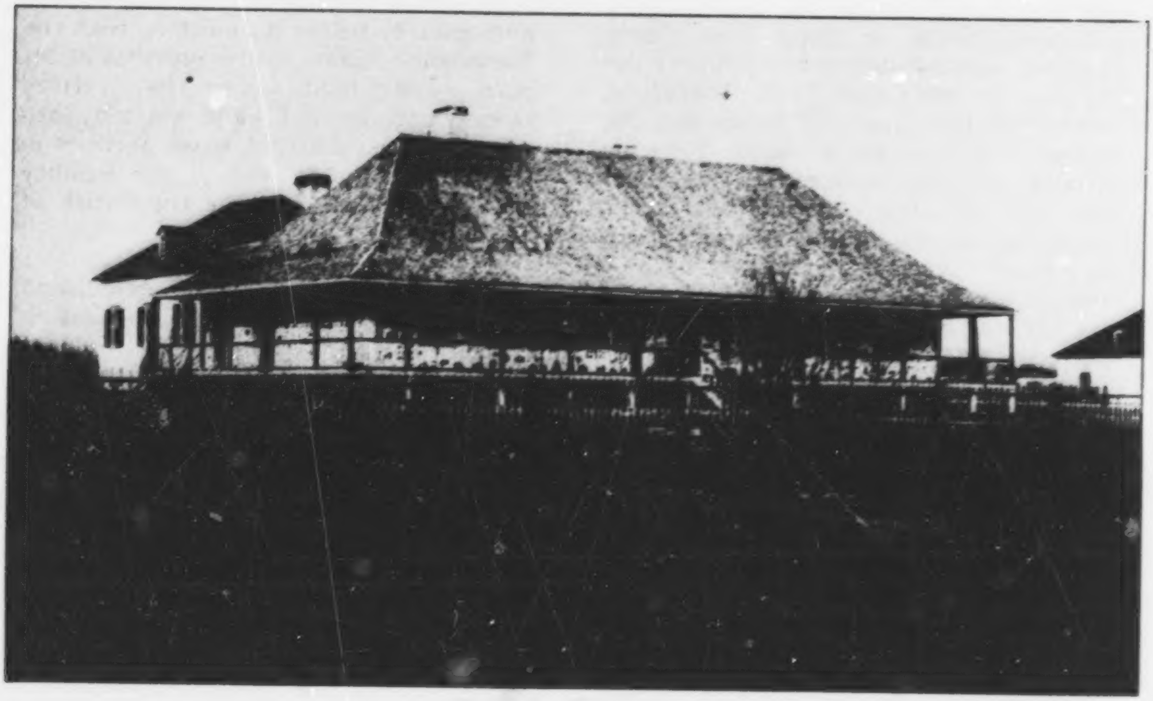
Aside from the fur trade, the major economic focus throughout the planning district during the Middle Historic Period was farming. The 1821 merger of the HBC and the NWC was one of the main factors that contributed to the homesteading of the Red River area. During the years of HBC-NWC competition, it was common practice for each trading company to build trade posts adjacent to each other. When the two companies amalgamated there was no need to operate two posts at one location, and one was closed. This led to a surplus labour force and it has been estimated that about 15% of the persons released made their way to the Red River Settlement where the HBC offered grants of land. The size of the land grant varied with the number of years an individual had worked for the company and usually ranged from 20.2 to 40.5 hectares (50 to 100 acres).

Most of the fur trade employees brought their Native wives and children with them and settled in areas adjacent to the original core area of the colony. One of the characteristics of the expanded colony was the demographic polarization of ethnic groups in specific areas of the settlement. The original Scottish settlers were concentrated adjacent to the banks of the Red River immediately below its junction with the Assiniboine River, in the parishes of St. John and Kildonan. The retired Orkneymen of the HBC settled with their families north of these parishes in the St. Paul area and in the locality that, after 1827, became the Parish of St. Andrews.

St. Andrews was established when the Reverend Cockran built a church in the vicinity of Pelican Rapids. Reverend Cockran was born in England in 1798; he was ordained in 1824 and arrived in the Red River Settlement in 1825. The church at St. Andrews was built in response to overcrowded conditions at St. Paul's Church, the only Protestant church in the northern end of the settlement. Reverend Cockran moved to the site of the new church in 1827, and the establishment was officially opened in 1832.



Out buildings south of the Stone Fort, Lower Fort Garry, 1858.

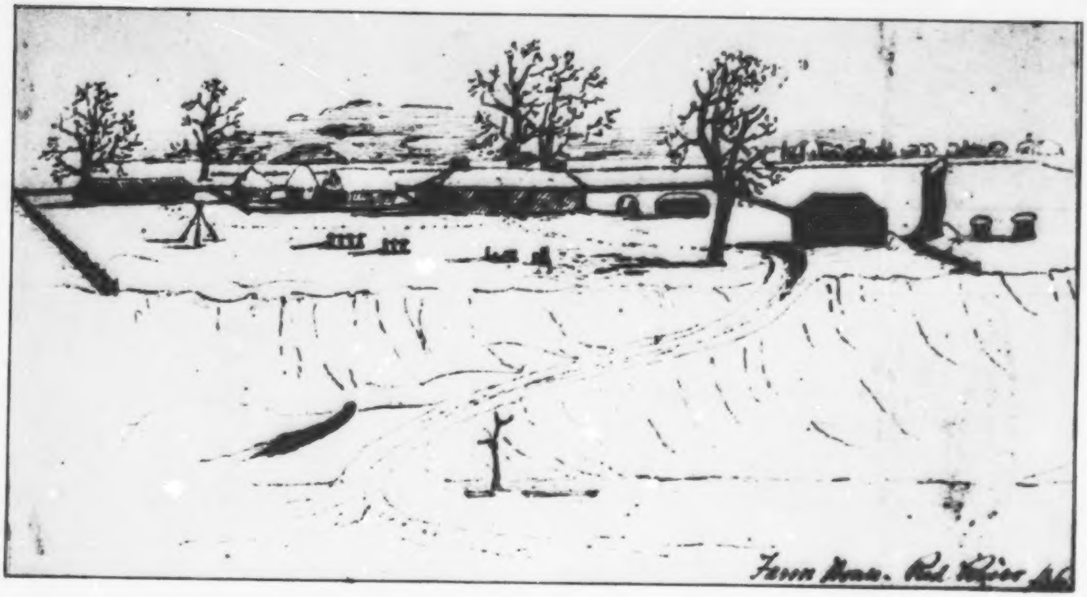


HBC's officers' quarters, Lower Fort Garry, 1858.

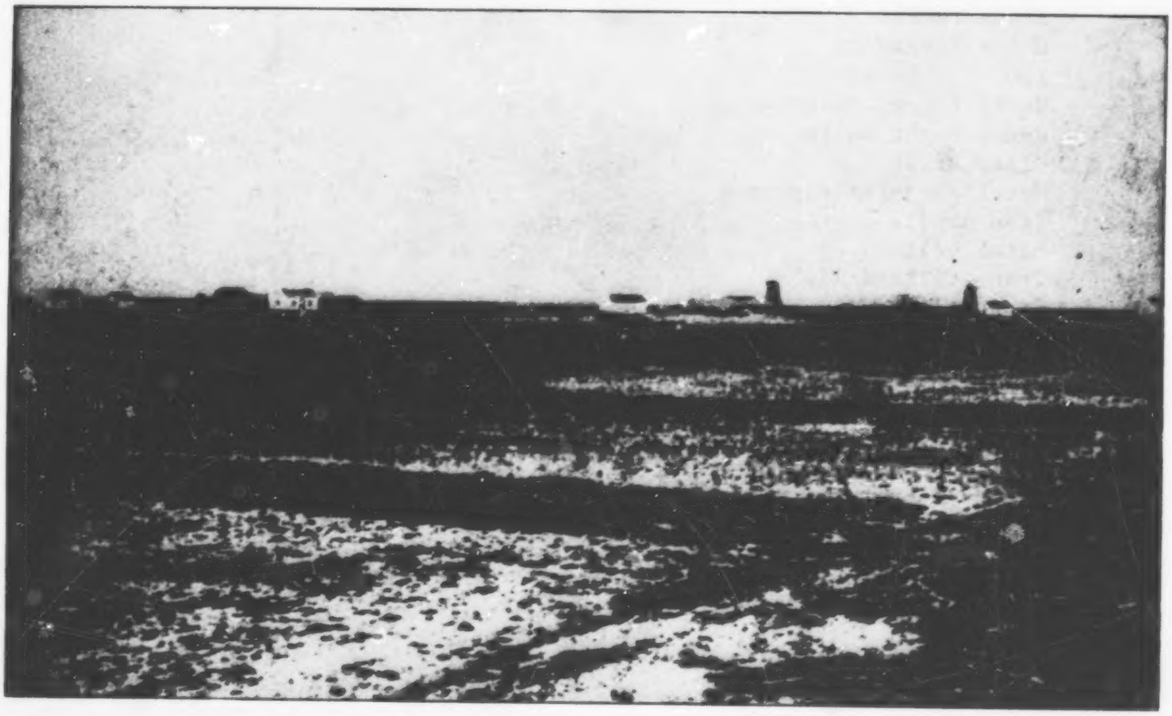
Table 2. Range of Historic Artifacts Common at Early Historic Sites

Items	Frequency[a]
Beads	1156
Lead shot	70
Cut copper kettle fragments	24
Metal bangles	17
Gunflints	9
Kaolin pipe fragments	6
Metal triangles	5
Lead strips	5
Metal triangular pendants	4
Iron strips	4
Musket balls	3
Glass fragments	3
Metal wire	3
Buttons	3
Brass tacks	3
China fragments	2
Iron fishhooks	2
Metal finger rings	2
Handwrought nails	2
Clasp knife	1
Metal projectile points	1
Iron needle	1
Metal bell	1
Iron strike-a-light	1
Iron awl	1
Iron chisel	1
Ivory comb	1
TOTAL	1331

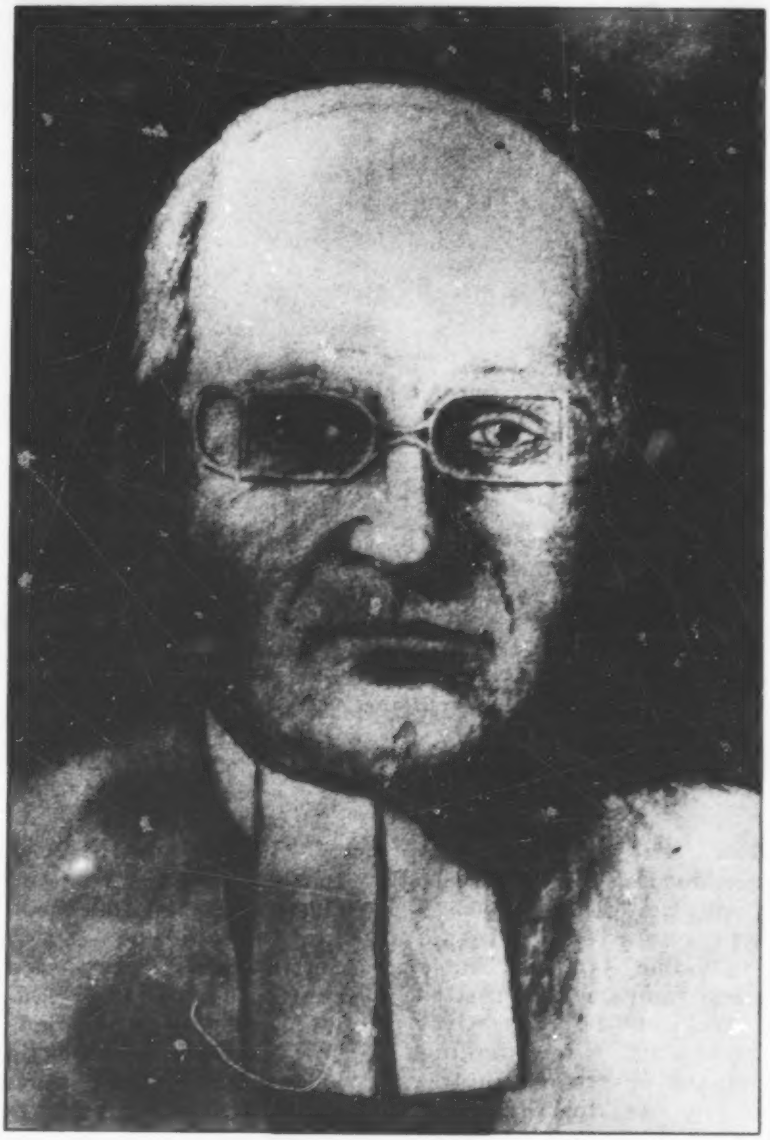
(a) Frequency based on Pic River totals.


Farm House. Red River 46

Example of a Red River farmstead, 1846.



Farm house and windmills, Middle Settlement, 1858.



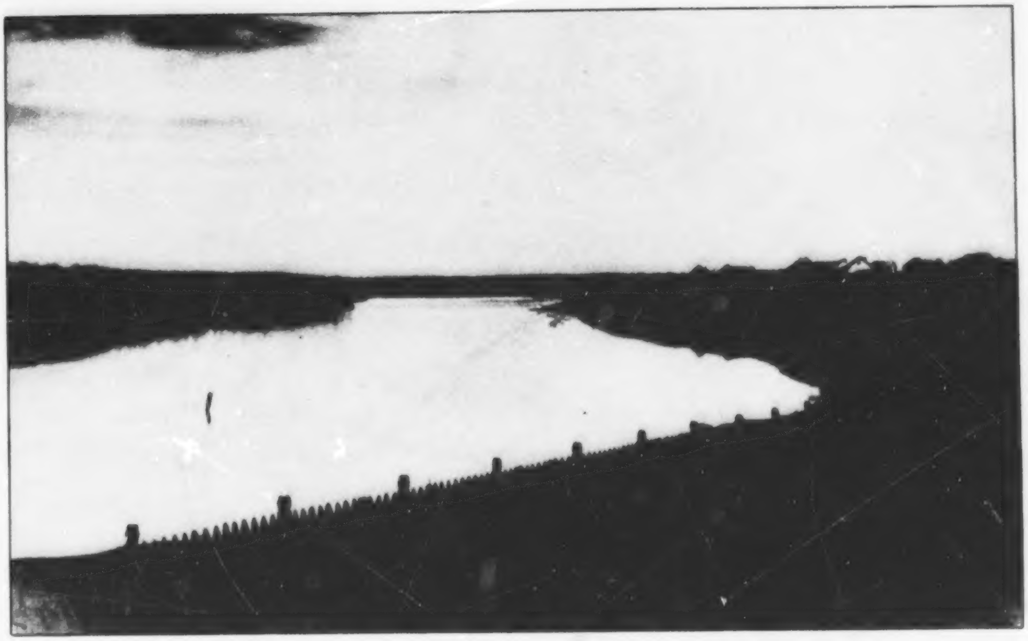
Reverend William Cockran.

St. Andrew's Church, also known as Rapids Church, as it appeared in 1858.

By 1835, the Parish of St. Andrews contained the largest population of all the parishes in the settlement, with a total of 319 people representing fifty-four families (Table 3). Most of these families were settled on the west bank of the Red River between Lots 1 and 59. A few families were settled on the east bank but this area was primarily used for wood lots. The southern-most area of St. Andrews was therefore the earliest settled section of the planning area.

Based on the 1835 census, the average St. Andrews farmer had one horse, nine head of cattle, two farm implements, one cart and had cleared about 2.35 hectares of land.

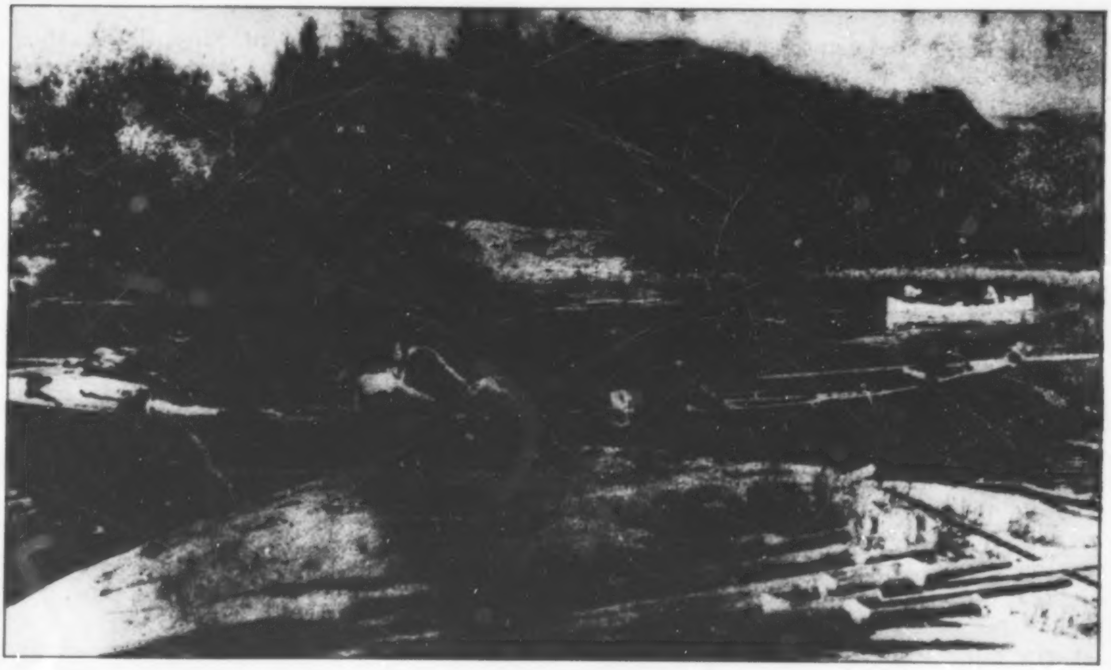
The annual HBC boat brigades that were organized at Lower Fort Garry were another source of income for people in the Red River Settlement. Individuals were contracted by the HBC as bowmen, middlemen or steersmen for the York boat brigades. These "tripmen", as they were called, would leave Lower Fort Garry in May, return in the autumn and in the interim would have travelled in excess of 2000 km.



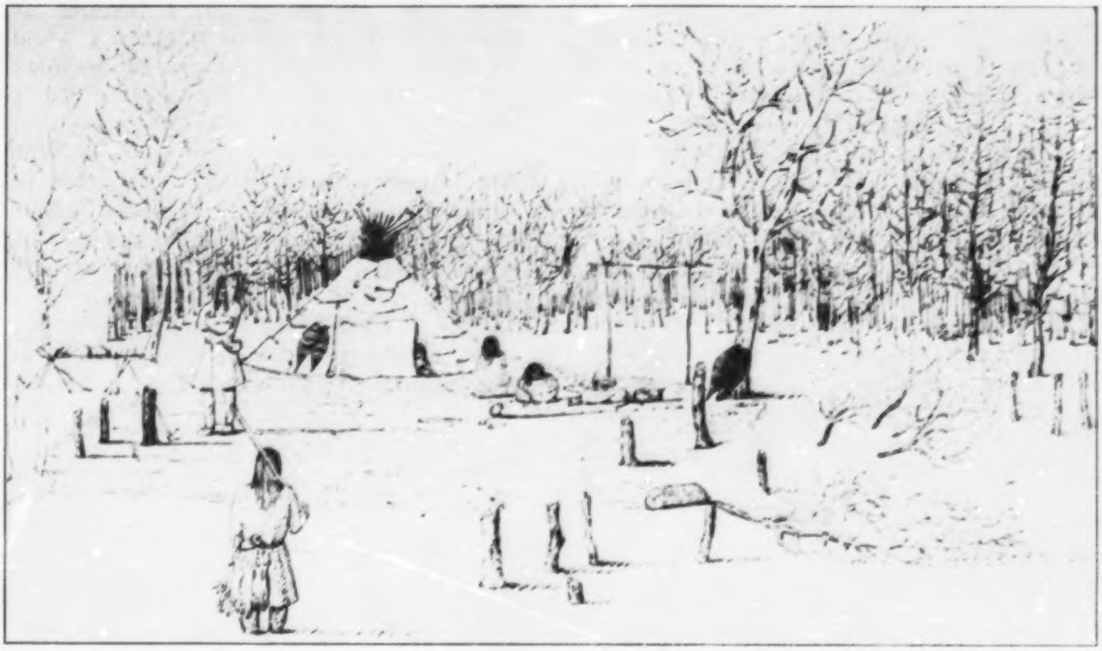
A portion of the Parish of St. Andrews, seen from St. Andrew's Church, 1858.

In 1832, the same year that St. Andrew's Church was opened, the Reverend William Cockran began an experimental farm among the Saulteaux at Netley Creek. The objective of this experiment was to settle as many of the Saulteaux as possible into one settlement. The Reverend was convinced that the only way to convert the Natives to Christianity was to have them congregate in an agrarian settlement. However, Peguis and the Saulteaux were reluctant to abandon their traditional way of life and remained in the area around the south basin of Lake Winnipeg. They followed a seasonal round of activities involving large summer fishing camps and family hunting and trapping units in the winter. Poor winter hunts in 1831 and 1832, combined with poor trapping returns during the same period, forced Peguis to accept Reverend Cockran's proposal to settle at Netley Creek.

On the third of May, 1832, the Reverend and two assistants, one named James Settee, began the farming operation at Netley Creek. Their work was hampered by heavy rains and snow showers that developed into a blizzard four days later. Reverend Cockran was forced to delay his activities at Netley until the end of May. By that time, however, the fish had begun to spawn and the Saulteaux began their annual summer fishing. From an estimated population of 200 individuals, the Reverend could only persuade seven families to plant gardens. An early fall frost severely reduced the first returns of the Native agriculturalists.



York boats and crews.



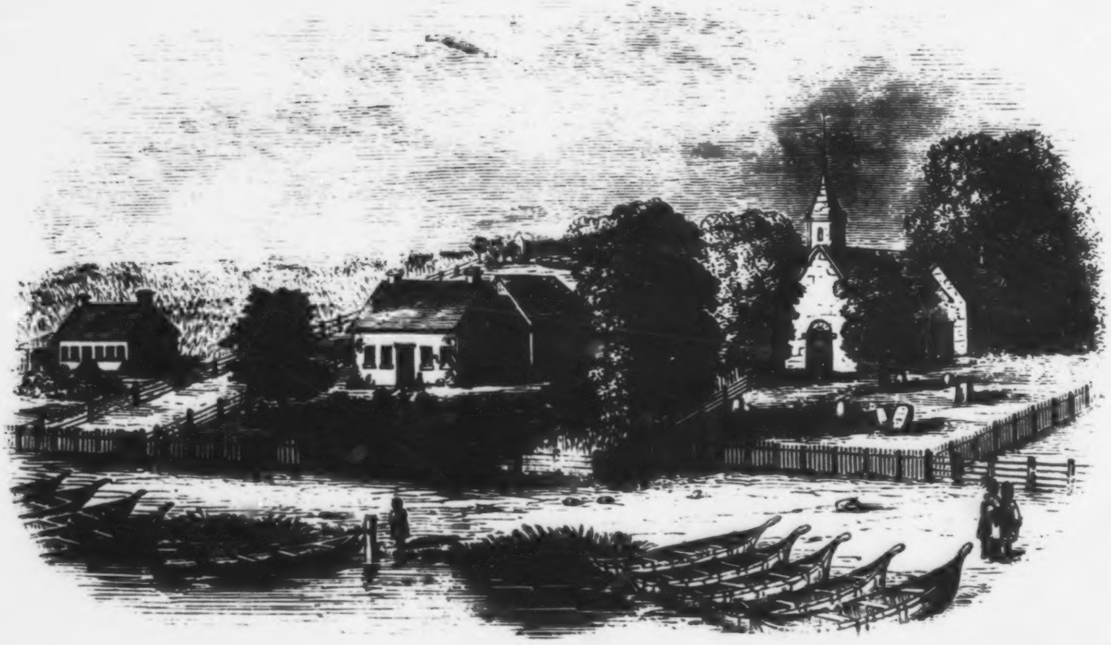
Example of an Indian lodge along the Red River during the Middle Historic Period.

Table 3. Comparison of Parishes in the Red River Settlement using the 1835 Census Data

Parish	Families	Persons	Horses	Cattle	Farm Implements	Carts	Farm Acreage
Kildonan	32	186	30	533*	72	63	353*
St. Paul	32	207	50	434	65	36	303
St. Andrews	54*	319*	51	462	97*	45	315
St. James	15	95	22	127	17	20	93
St. Francois-Xavier	45	263	82*	304	37	71*	322
St. Boniface	38	198	57	337	54	58	279
St. Vital	27	154	29	165	32	32	148
St. Norbert	45	229	49	220	35	46	152
TOTAL	288	1651	370	2582	409	371	1965

* Denotes largest value of all parishes.

In May of 1833, Reverend Cockran persuaded additional Saulteaux, as well as several Cree who had obtained land from Peguis, to plant crops. By this time, however, the Reverend realized that the lower Red River region was an inconvenient location for his settlement, and in June of that year he searched for an area to relocate. He selected a spot 10 km downstream from Sugar Point, and this became the present St. Peter's Church site. A schoolhouse was constructed in September of 1833 and nine small houses were built during October. In 1834, the Saulteaux and a number of Cree moved to the new site. In 1835, a windmill was built and in 1836, work was started on the first St. Peter's Church. The latter was completed in 1837 and stood north of the present stone church, which was constructed in 1853. The Indian Settlement, as it came to be known, began to prosper as an increasing number of Native farmers settled along the Red River. The period of 1840 to 1860 was possibly the most productive era in the history of the Indian Settlement.



INDIAN SETTLEMENT AT THE RED RIVER.

The Indian Settlement, 1844.

During the same period, there was a great deal of agricultural expansion toward the northern, or lower, end of the Red River Settlement. The children of the retired fur trade families matured and started families of their own. This created overcrowding on the river lots which, by their nature, made it difficult to subdivide among one's heirs. The subsequent generation was forced to move elsewhere. Some settled on lots bordering the familial tract or on lots on the opposite, or east, bank. Others settled on lots further down the river and, in fact, the lower portion of St. Andrews ultimately became the Parish of St. Clements after the 1850s. Individuals also moved into the area of the Indian Settlement, which became the Parish of St. Peter. The farmsteading of the St. Peter area led to a break-up of the Indian Settlement as the Natives sold their land to the incoming homesteaders. Further pressures were visited upon the Indian Settlement after the death of Peguis in 1864. His leadership had kept the Cree-Saulteaux alliance in harmony but, after his death, there was a gradual distancing and alienation between the two groups.

The enthusiasm of the Native farmers began to wane during the 1860s when droughts and grasshopper infestations caused a number of partial and total crop failures throughout the Red River area. This may have had a demoralizing effect on the Native farmers because they had abandoned their traditional way of life for one that did not appear to be as productive as the missionaries had promised. Many Cree and Saulteaux left the Cook's Creek area to live as they had in the past.

Farm on the Red River near Dynevor, late 1860s.

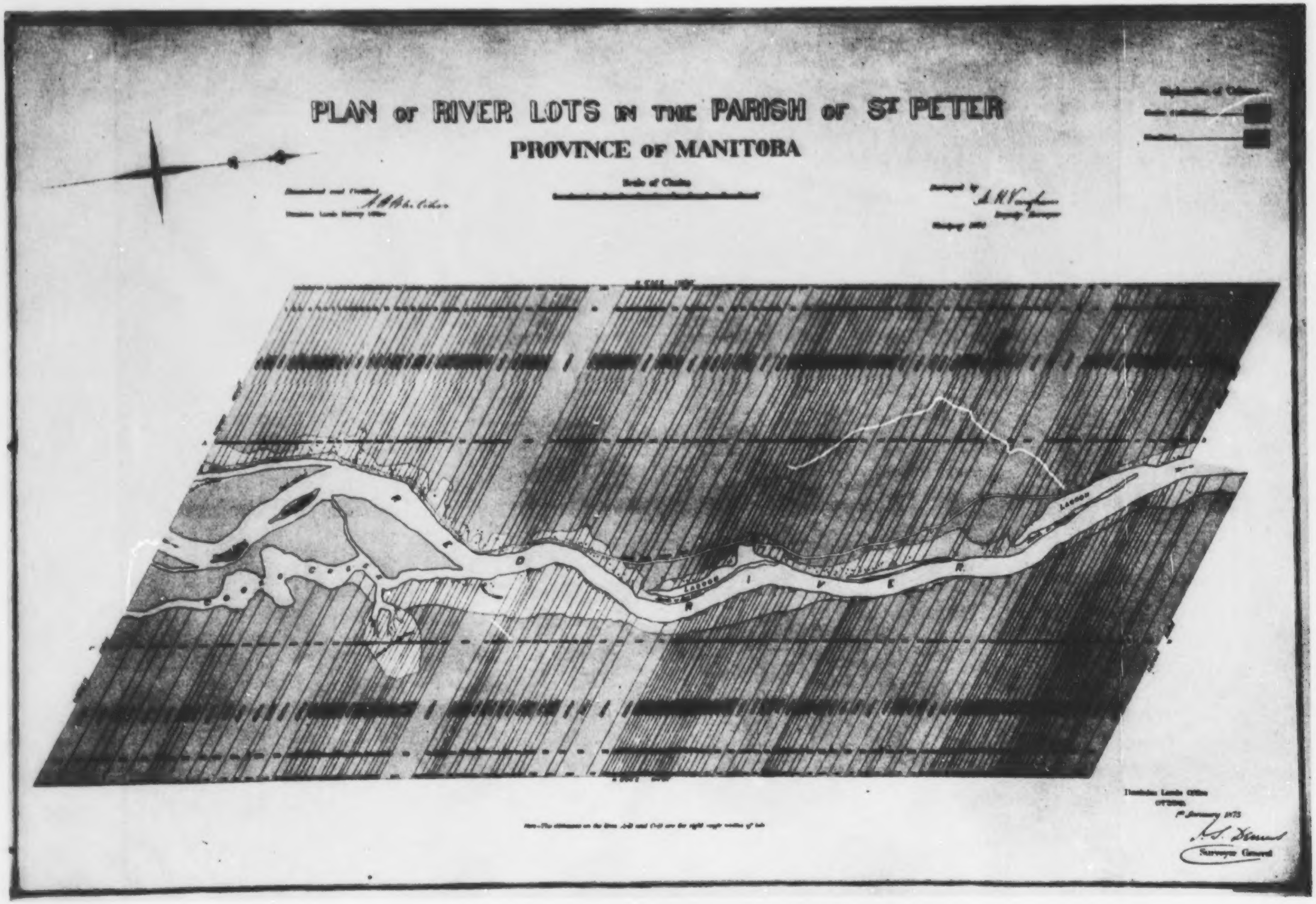
By the end of the Middle Historic Period the current extent of the parishes of St. Andrews, St. Clements, and St. Peter had been established. In the former two parishes, most of the settlement was distributed along the west bank of the Red River, while in St. Peter, both sides of the river were homesteaded.

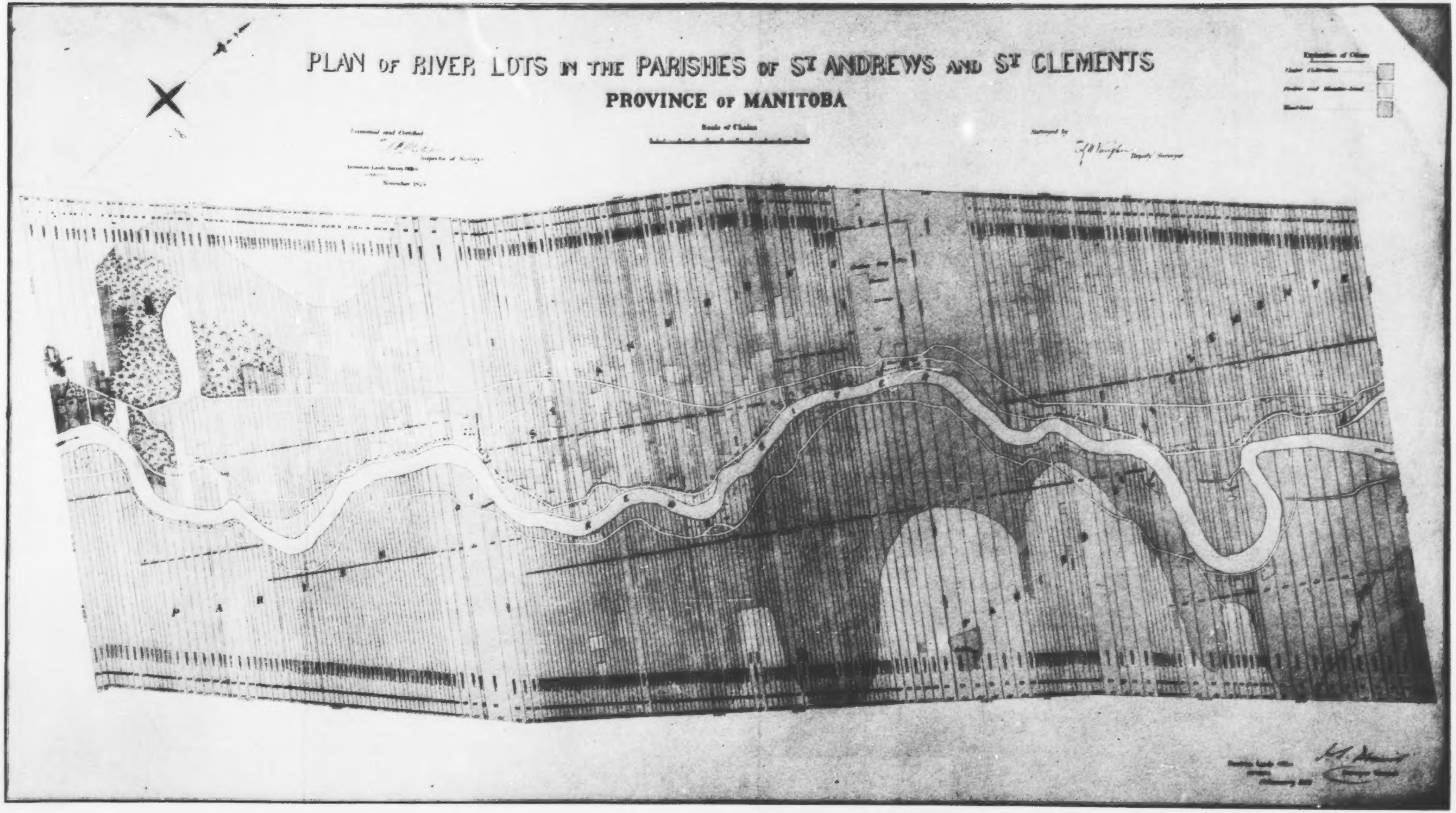
* * *

The above detailed account of the events of the Middle Historic Period in the Selkirk area appears to be more historically oriented than archaeological. Recall that two of the major goals of archaeology are the reconstruction of culture history and past lifeways; the historical records allow for at least partial fulfillment of these goals while the archaeological information provides material evidence for the historical accounts.

The 1984 Selkirk and District Planning Area survey recorded a number of sites that date to the Middle Historic Period. Site materials were usually found scattered across the surface of the river lots adjacent to the river. In St. Andrews, most sites dating to this period were found along the west bank of the Red River. Few archaeological sites were located in St. Clements, as most open areas were inaccessible due to crop coverage. The major Middle Historic Period site in the St. Clements Parish is Lower Fort Garry. In the 1960s, Parks Canada began a number of excavations at this site in conjunction with renovation work. The archaeological digs continued on into the 1970s.

Lower Fort Garry, 1858.

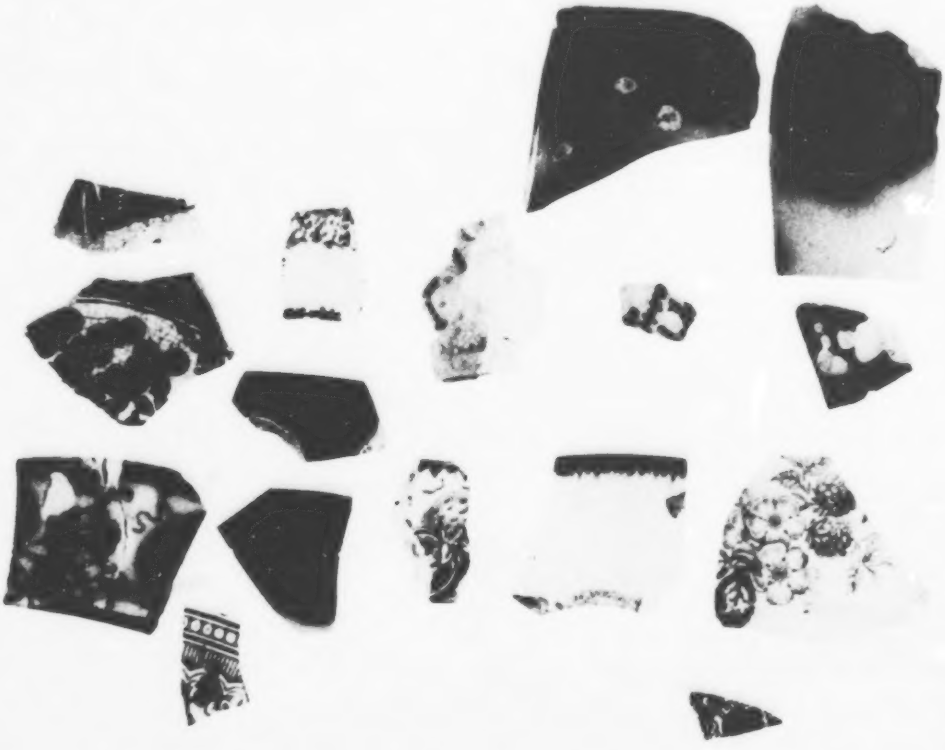

PLAN OF RIVER LOTS IN THE PARISH OF ST PETER
PROVINCE OF MANITOBA
Scale of Chains
RED RIVER
LAGOON
LAGOON
Dominion Lands Office
OTTAWA
1873
Surveyor General


PLAN OF RIVER LOTS IN THE PARISHES OF ST ANDREWS AND ST CLEMENTS
PROVINCE OF MANITOBA
Scale of Chains
Inspector of Surveys
Surveyed by
Deputy Surveyor

In St. Peter Parish, most of the sites identified during the planning area survey post-dated 1850 and related to the non-Native settlers who homesteaded in the area. These sites were located on both the east and west banks of the Red River.

Middle Historic site assemblages usually consist of a variety of artifact types, and the following discussion is based on information from sites located in the Selkirk and Area Planning District as well as excavated sites from other areas in the Red River Settlement. Table 4 summarizes the type and frequency of artifacts found at selected sites from St. Andrews, St. Peter and St. Norbert. The first four sites are all surface assemblages and the artifact counts are not exclusively indicative of the Middle Historic Period alone, as these sites also contained artifacts from subsequent occupations.

Ceramic sherds are the most frequently recovered artifacts at Middle Historic sites, and the ceramic assemblages usually contain a number of Spode-Copeland patterns. Spode-Copeland ceramics were imported from England by the HBC from c. 1835 until the early 1900s. The imported vessels were primarily tablewares decorated with transfer printed designs. The designs consisted of a variety of motifs such as landscape scenes, floral designs and geometric designs.



Middle Historic Period ceramics, consisting of Spode-Copeland and unknown manufacturer's patterns found in the Selkirk and District Planning Area.

Table 4. Comparison of Artifact Classes Recovered at Sites in St. Andrews, St. Peter and St. Norbert (a)

Artifacts	EaLf-6	EaLf-22	EbLf-12	EbLf-23	DkLg-16
Ceramics	282	81	324	396	223
Liquor bottle glass	21	4	58	52	11
Case bottle glass	2	0	8	1	0
Medicine bottle glass	26	13	25	71	32
Glassware	18	3	54	105	57
Tableware	8	0	11	8	3
Kitchenware	2	1	36	26	120
Window glass	0	1	28	26	116
Nails	21	0	55	20	237
Construction hardware	0	0	17	2	20
Door parts	2	0	3	1	0
Furniture hardware	1	0	7	3	1
Gun parts and accessories	3	0	17	3	19
Buckles	1	0	4	0	0
Thimbles	0	0	0	1	0
Buttons	10	0	10	9	53
Pins	0	0	0	0	16
Fasteners	0	0	0	0	2
Shoe parts	0	0	7	1	5
Beads	1	0	0	1	546
Keys	0	0	0	0	1
Coins	0	0	0	0	1
Personal items	6	0	1	4	5
Tobacco pipes	54	2	0	10	27
Construction tools	1	1	6	2	3
Farm tools	0	0	15	0	0
Toys	4	0	1	13	0
Fishing gear	0	0	1	0	1
Storage items	1	1	6	8	14
Stable and barn items	6	0	4	5	4
Miscellaneous hardware	3	1	18	8	34
TOTAL	473	108	716	776	1551

(a) DkLg-16 values compiled from McLeod (1983).

EaLf-6 & EaLf-22 - Parish of St. Andrews DkLg-16 - Parish of St. Norbert

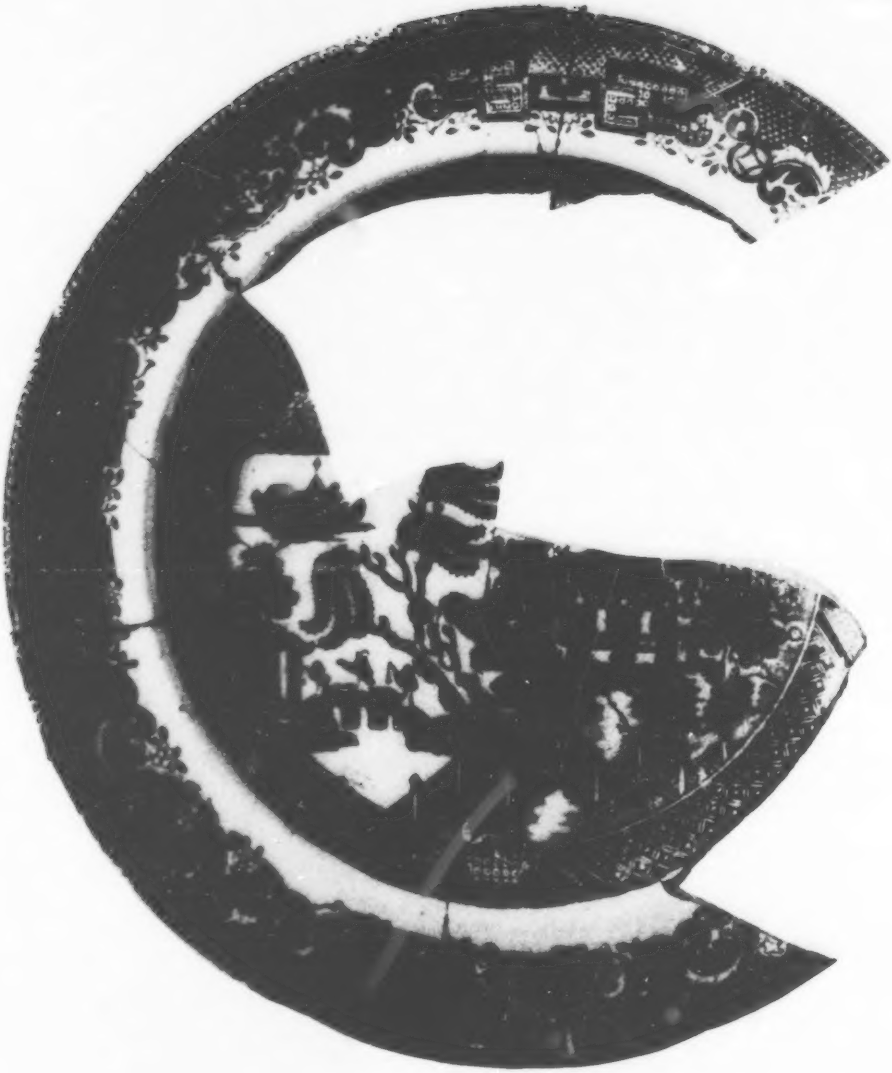
EaLf-12 & EbLf-23 - Parish of St. Peter

The HBC imported more than one hundred different Spode-Copeland patterns, forty-eight of which were found at the Lower Fort Garry excavations. It is probable that most homesteaders in the planning area purchased their ceramic wares from the Lower Fort. A total of twenty-eight different Spode-Copeland patterns were identified from sites recorded in St. Andrews, while twenty-seven patterns were obtained in St. Peter. Table 5 lists the five most common patterns from St. Andrews and St. Peter in comparison with the five most frequent patterns found at Métis sites and at Upper Fort Garry. In most cases, these ceramic patterns incorporate a landscape design as the main decorative motif. Patterns such as "WILLOW", "RUINS", "RURAL SCENES" and "CONTINENTAL VIEWS" serve as good examples of landscape motifs.

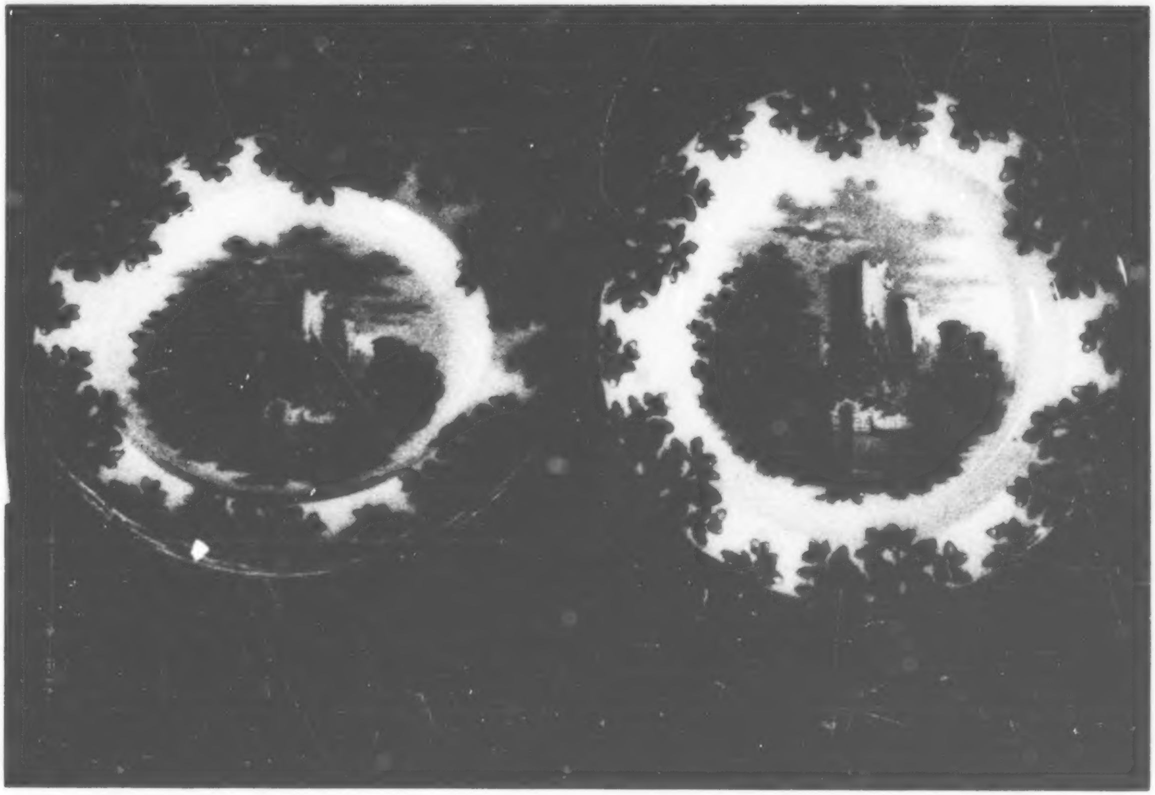
Glass from liquor bottles that contained such spirits as brandy, ale, champagne, gin and whiskey is also commonly found. Other glass common to Middle Historic sites includes squared medicine bottles, decorated utilitarian glassware, lantern glass and clear storage container glass.

Tableware articles such as knives, forks and spoons are occasionally recovered and vary in shape and construction. A common attribute of cutlery used during the Middle Historic Period is designed bone handles usually found on knives and forks.

Recent studies in Red River archaeology have shown that in addition to kitchen-related artifacts, most Middle Historic sites also contain a large number of architectural artifacts. These include wrought and cut nails, window glass, hinges and door lock parts. Wrought, or handmade, nails were used until the 1850s, when machine-made, or cut, nails were brought into the settlement from the United States by ox cart and steamship. One disadvantage of the wrought and cut nails, unlike the modern wire round variety, was that they could not be reutilized. Therefore, square nail fragments form about 60-70% of the square nail assemblage at most Historic Period sites.

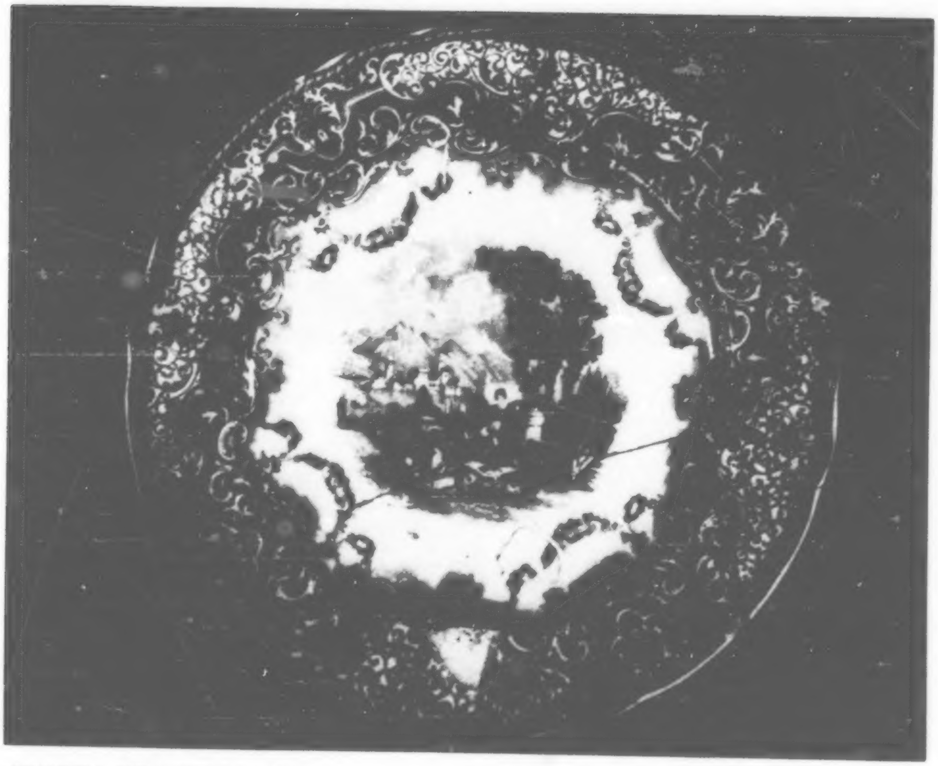


WILLOW ceramic pattern.

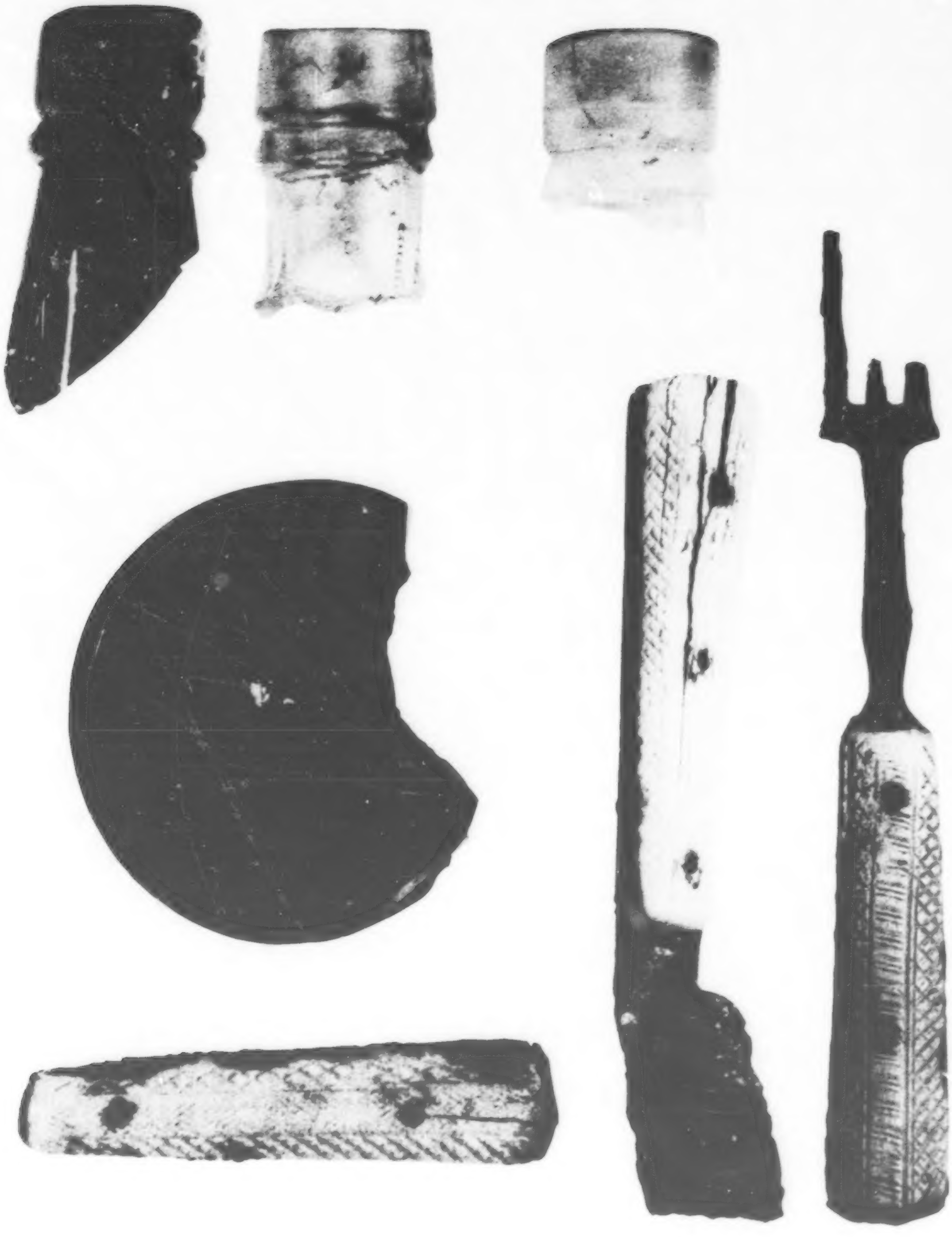


RUINS ceramic pattern.

RURAL SCENES ceramic pattern.



CONTINENTAL VIEWS ceramic pattern.



Middle Historic Period liquor glass and tableware found in the Selkirk and District Planning Area.

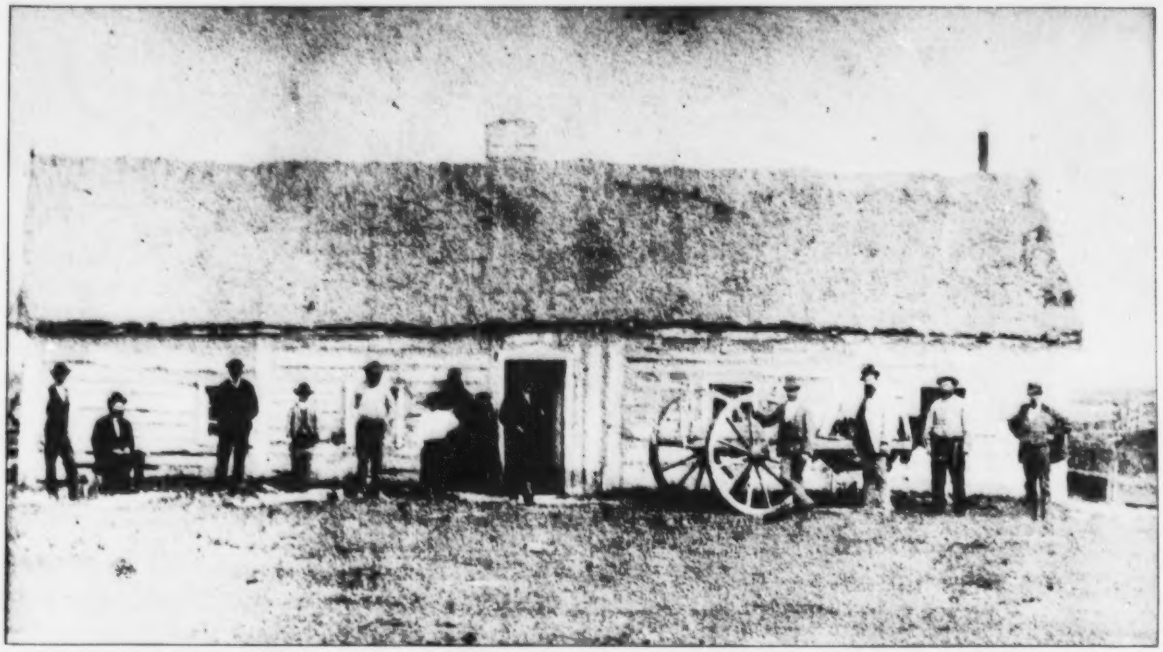
Table 5. List of the Five Most Frequently Recovered Spode-Copeland Designs at Red River Sites

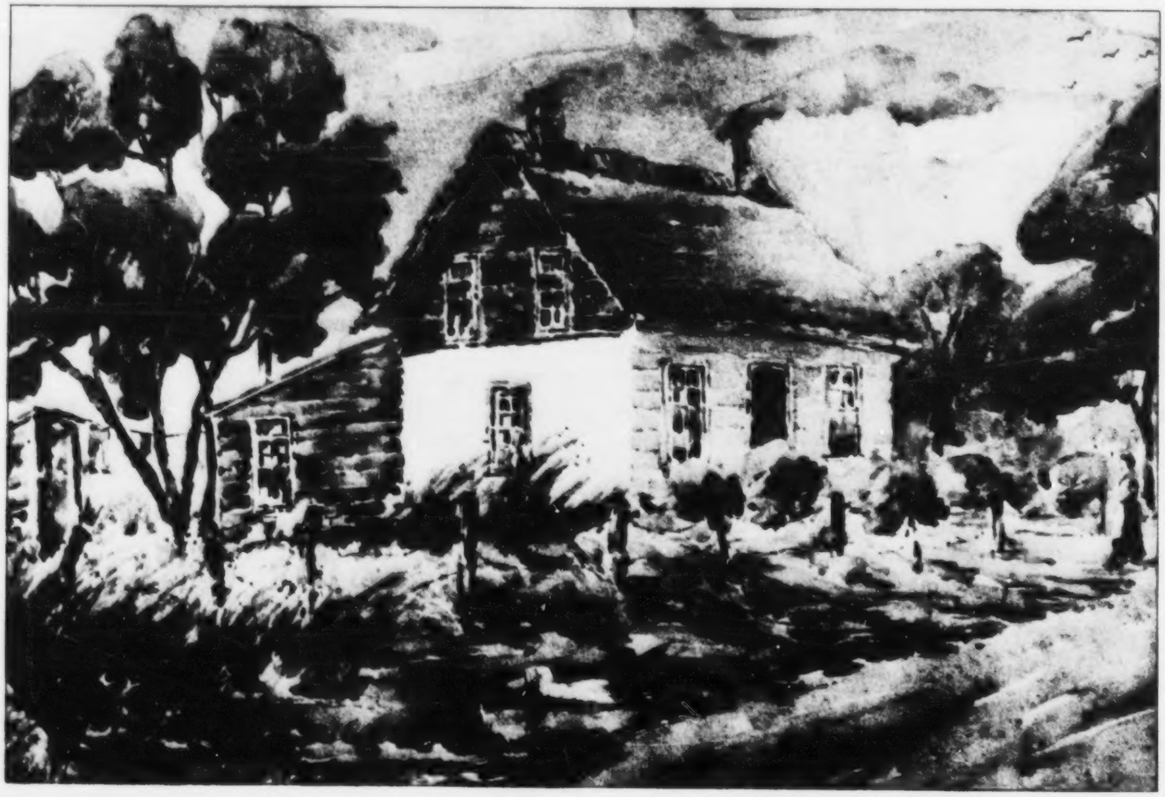
Métis sites[a]	Upper Fort Garry[b]	St. Andrews	St. Peter
Continental Views	Passion Flower	Willow[c]	B 772
Ruins	Continental View	Byron Group	Willow[c]
B 772	Broseley[c]	Ruins	Ruins
Flower vase	B 700	Rural Scenes	Broseley[c]
Alhambra	B772	Flower Vase	Flower Vase

(a) Métis sites used were Riel House, Delorme House and Garden site.
(b) Dr. G. Monks (personal communication 1984).
(c) These patterns were also made by other pottery manufacturers.

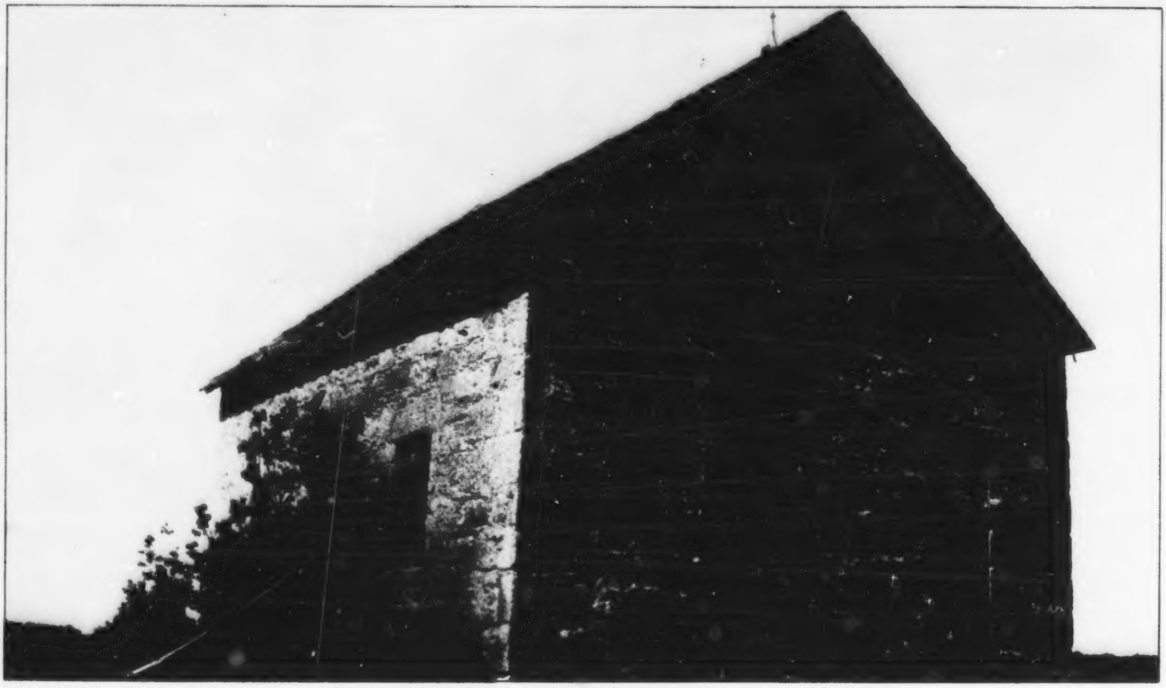
The large number of architectural artifacts at Middle Historic sites is related to the construction technique used in the Red River during that period. Houses were constructed in the Red River frame style, featuring squared, grooved logs mortised vertically into a sill. Horizontal logs were placed between the grooved uprights. Often, horizontal siding was nailed on the exterior. The entire structure either rested on the ground or had a foundation of mortared stone. Often a storage cellar lay beneath the house and this, too, was constructed of logs. The interior walls of the dwelling were usually covered with a mixture of straw and mud, called "chinking", held in place with willow lathwork. Chinking was also placed between the exterior logs of the structure to plug any cracks along the length of the walls. The interior and exterior walls were then usually whitewashed. Other buildings on the farm site were built in a similar fashion but with a considerably smaller degree of finishing. A typical farm site consisted of a dwelling house, a barn or stable and one or two storage sheds. This building complex, or "toft", was built adjacent and parallel to the river.

Limestone structures were also constructed, usually by the wealthier families living in the settlement such as the Gunns, the Kennedys, the Scotts and the McDonalds. Churches, such as St. Andrew's and St. Peter's, and the main buildings at Lower Fort Garry, were also made of limestone.





Examples of the Red River frame construction technique.

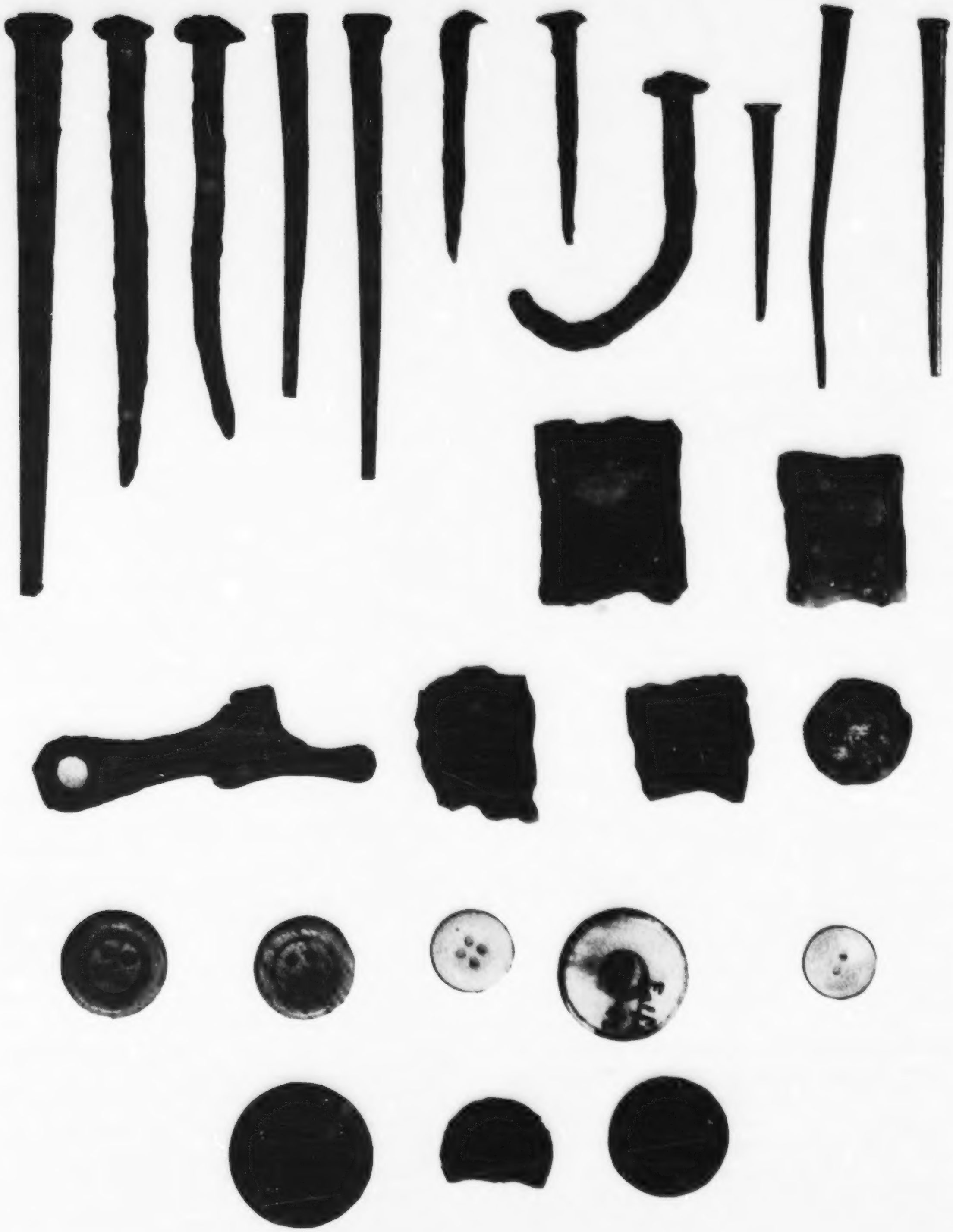


A limestone house of the Red River Settlement. This structure formerly stood near the west bank of the river near Lockport.

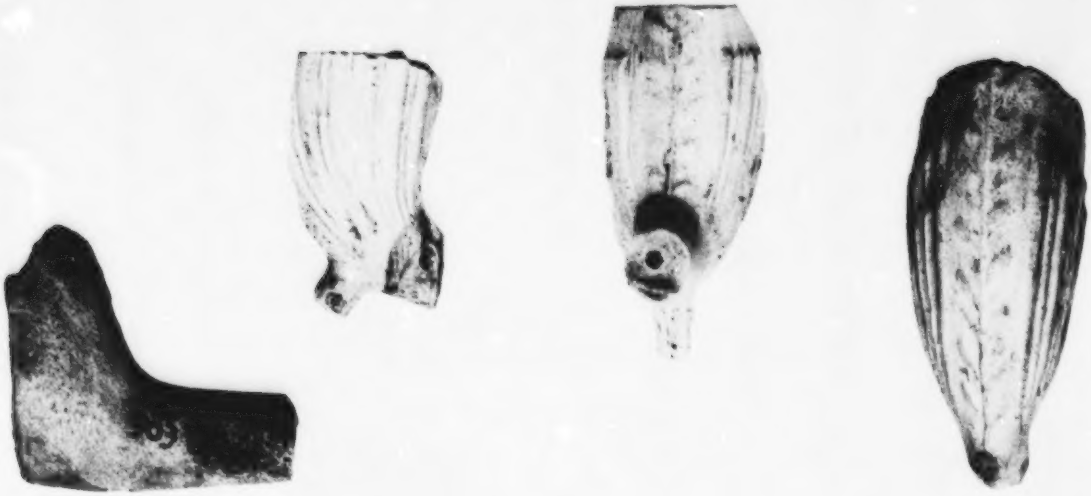
Faunal assemblages at Middle Historic sites usually reflect the sedentary pastoralism of the settlers. Cow and pig remains are the most common domesticated mammal species found at Historic Period sites, while domesticated birds such as chicken and turkey are also well represented. A number of non-domesticated mammals, birds and fish were also utilized, usually by the less sedentary portions of the Red River population.

Often found in conjunction with non-domesticated faunal assemblages is a diversity of arms-related artifacts. Site inhabitants generally owned a variety of weapons which included a flintlock or percussion cap rifle, a shotgun and often a flintlock pistol. Typical clothing artifacts include buckles, buttons and beads and occasionally shoe parts, fasteners, straight pins and thimbles. Buttons are usually the most common variety of clothing artifacts found and were primarily manufactured of either bone or brass as well as ceramic and shell.

Other common artifacts in Middle Historic sites are white clay pipe fragments. The most frequent type found in the planning district was the John, or Ian, Ford variety. This English company supplied the HBC from 1830 to 1875.



Middle Historic nails (top row), gun parts (second and third rows) and buttons (fourth and fifth rows) from the Selkirk and District Planning Area.



Middle Historic Period pipe fragments from the Parish of St. Andrews.

Late Historic Period

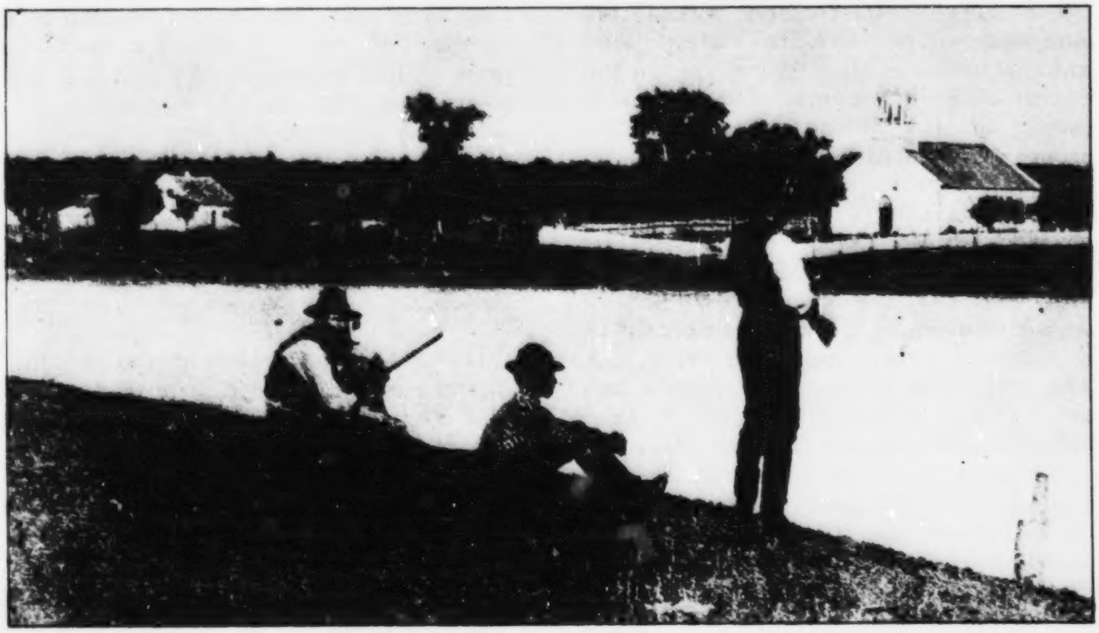
(1870-1920 AD)

The Late Historic Period was characterized by increased settlement in areas outside of the river lot parishes, as well as along the east bank of the Red River, by settlers from eastern Canada, Britain and eastern Europe. The period was also marked by the establishment and incorporation of the Town of Selkirk and the rural municipalities of St. Andrews and St. Clements. Much of the local history of the Late Historic Period has been documented in the centenary books published by the rural municipalities and the Town of Selkirk. The following summary is therefore a brief discussion of the more prominent events of this period.

Manitoba's entry into Confederation in 1870 resulted in a number of events that had a direct impact on the planning area. The first of these was a resurvey of the entire province, completed by 1874. At this time, the province of Manitoba was still its "postage stamp" size. An objective of this survey was to establish ownership and ownership boundaries of the river lots and township sections. One of the clauses of The Manitoba Act provided for grants totalling 566,580 hectares (1,400,000 acres) of land to the children of Métis families, and the surveys delineated which lands could be so granted.

In addition to obtaining an accurate survey description of the lands in the new province of Manitoba, the federal government also deemed it necessary to secure title to the lands. The Cree and Saulteaux relinquished their claim to the lands of Manitoba in exchange for, among other things, reserves of land and annual money payments. This was accomplished by Indian Treaty Number 1, signed at Lower Fort Garry in 1871. After the treaty was signed, the boundaries of St. Peter's Indian Reserve were moved further north. The Brokenhead Indian Reserve was also formed after 1871. In St. Peter, however, there was a number of non-Native settlers on the river lots within the proposed reserve. It was decided that those lots possessed by non-Natives prior to 1871 would not form part of the reserve. After 1871, there was an increasing number of land sales to, and speculation by, incoming settlers.

During the Late Historic Period, the St. Peter's Reserve was divided into north and south portions; the Cree were concentrated in the south near Dynevor and the Saulteaux in the north around Peguis. Although the division occurred in 1876, two Anglican missionaries had already been placed in the north and south areas by 1874. Gilbert Cook was responsible for the southern half and James Settee for the northern. James Settee was one of the first Natives baptized by the Anglican missionaries and had helped Reverend Cockran begin the agrarian settlement at Netley Creek in 1832. In 1874, Reverend Settee built a small house which served as a Sunday meeting place on the banks of Netley Creek. Two years later, during the winter of 1876, the Netley Creek settlers suffered from a severe outbreak of smallpox. The potential for a large-scale epidemic was so great that the Manitoba government quarantined the area to arrest the



St. Peter's Church as it appeared from the west bank of the Red River around 1875.

southward spread of the disease. A hospital was established along Netley Creek in December of 1876; by the end of the month it contained sixteen patients and two deaths had been recorded. By February of 1877, most of the cause for alarm had abated and the quarantine was lifted.

The Anglican missionaries were not the only ecclesiastics in the St. Peter area. In 1876, a Roman Catholic mission was established on the east bank of the Red River several kilometres north of St. Peter's Church. By 1892, the mission consisted of a church, a schoolhouse, a store house and a small cemetery. In 1907, the St. Peter's Reserve was relocated at what is now Dallas in the Interlake, and sometime during the second decade of the twentieth century, the church building was removed to the Catholic mission at Berens River. All that currently remains of the site are two building foundations and a few grave markers.

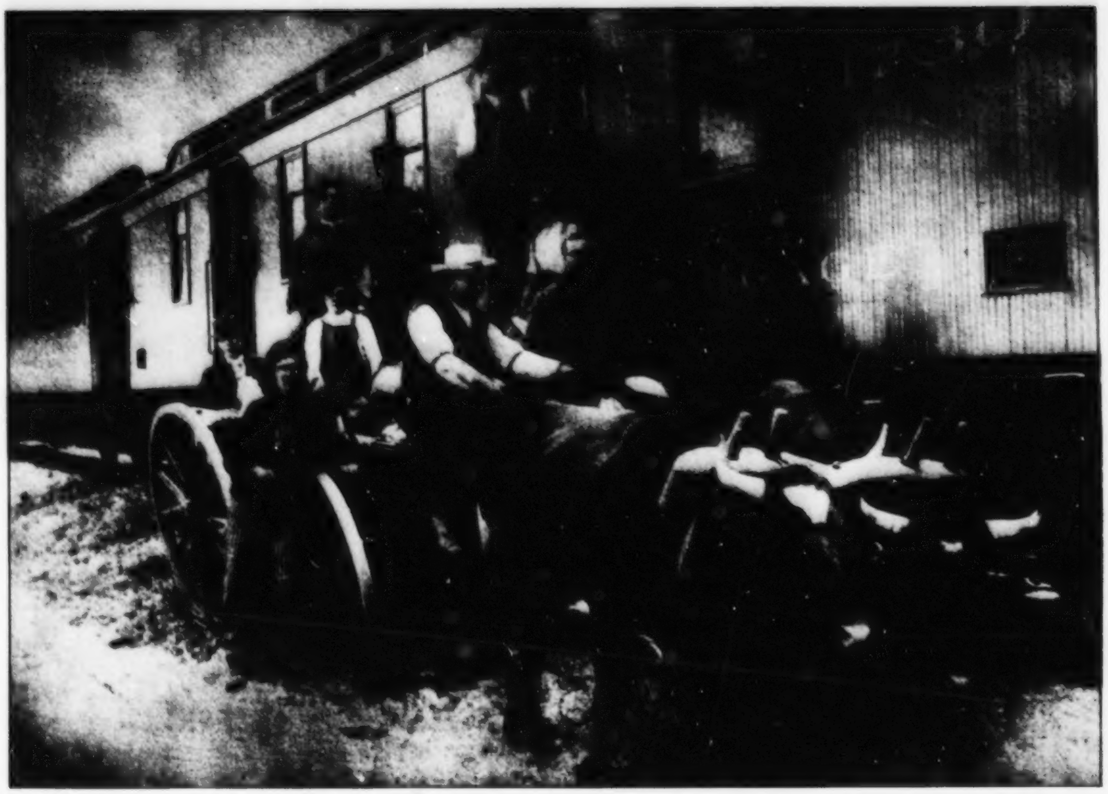
While settlers and speculators purchased land in St. Peter, land speculation was also going on in the Parish of St. Clements. This was as a result of the announcement of the proposed route of the Canadian Pacific Railroad across the Red River below Lower Fort Garry. This announcement created construction and industrial activity in the present-day Selkirk area. In 1875, the town of East Selkirk was surveyed, and construction of a roundhouse was completed by 1880. The HBC built a number of warehouses at Colville Landing, north of East Selkirk, and planned to use them as commercial centres, especially for the incoming immigrants who were expected to use the CPR mainline. Small industries, such as the Doidge Pottery Company, also began operation. This company began production in 1880 along the banks of Cook's Creek. Although some commercial pottery was manufactured in the Selkirk area as early as 1879, the Doidge Company produced numerous flower pots, butter crocks and narrow-necked jugs. An exhaustion of suitable clay in the immediate vicinity led to the closing of the pottery operation in 1906.

Unfortunately, all this activity in the Selkirk area was in vain because, due to government delays and pressure exerted by civic groups in Winnipeg, the rail crossing was built there instead. The crossing was completed in 1881, and even though the railway bypassed the town of Selkirk, the area benefitted nonetheless from an improved transportation system.

One result of the improved transport system was the diminished importance of Lower Fort Garry. Prior to the 1880s, the Lower Fort had been a central inland post and, because of its proximity to Lake Winnipeg, a major distribution centre. During the 1870s, construction of buildings in areas outside of the fort walls increased as a number of minor industries, such as gristmilling, brewing, iron smithing and sawmilling, developed in conjunction with the agricultural and shipbuilding activities. Minor construction at the Lower Fort complex occurred in 1873, when the fort was used as a garrison and training facility for the first recruits of the North West Mounted Police.

The construction of the rail line in the Red River area negated the role of Lower Fort Garry as a distribution centre. Accordingly, its role in the fur trade diminished during the 1880s and 1890s. In 1911, Lower Fort Garry was officially closed.

Another effect of the railroad was the settling of areas outside of the parish lots, caused by the influx of Canadian, British and European



Settlers removing goods from a railway baggage car.

settlers. In response to the widespread homestead settlement, small commercial centres and post office locations developed. In addition, small villages sprang up along the rail line when it was expanded northward. The agrarianism of the planning area, which had begun in the 1820s, continued to develop and expand during the twentieth century.

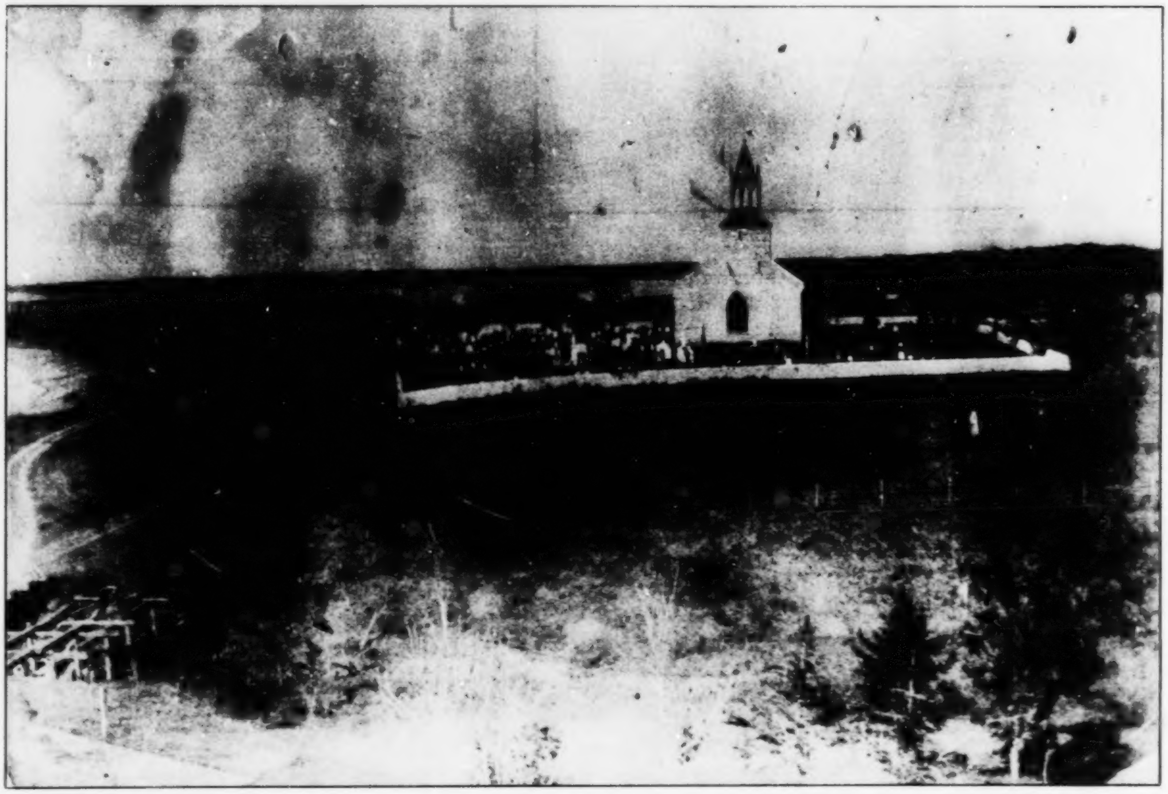
* * *

Archaeologically, the Late Historic Period has not been studied to any extent and few sites have been excavated. This is largely due to the recency of the period and the fact that interest has usually been centred on fur trade sites of the Early and Middle Historic periods. Nonetheless, Late Historic sites were the most frequently recorded site type during the 1984 survey. The increase in the number of sites over those of previous periods is probably due to the increased population in the area and the greater variety of items used by the site inhabitants. Along the Red River, and primarily along the west bank, Late Historic site materials were usually found in association with Middle Historic artifacts. Based on excavations at other historic sites, it is apparent that dwellings and outbuildings constructed during the Middle Historic Period were maintained, repaired and reutilized by homesteaders of the Late Historic Period.

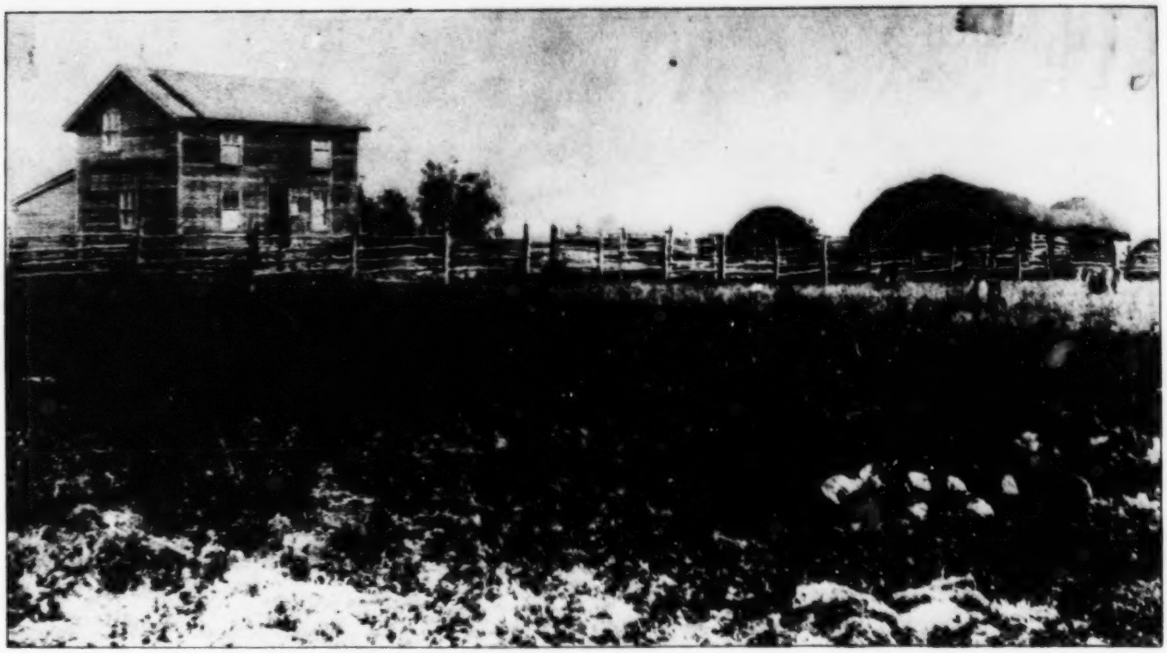
Cows standing in a smudge in a milking yard, Birds Hill, 1884.

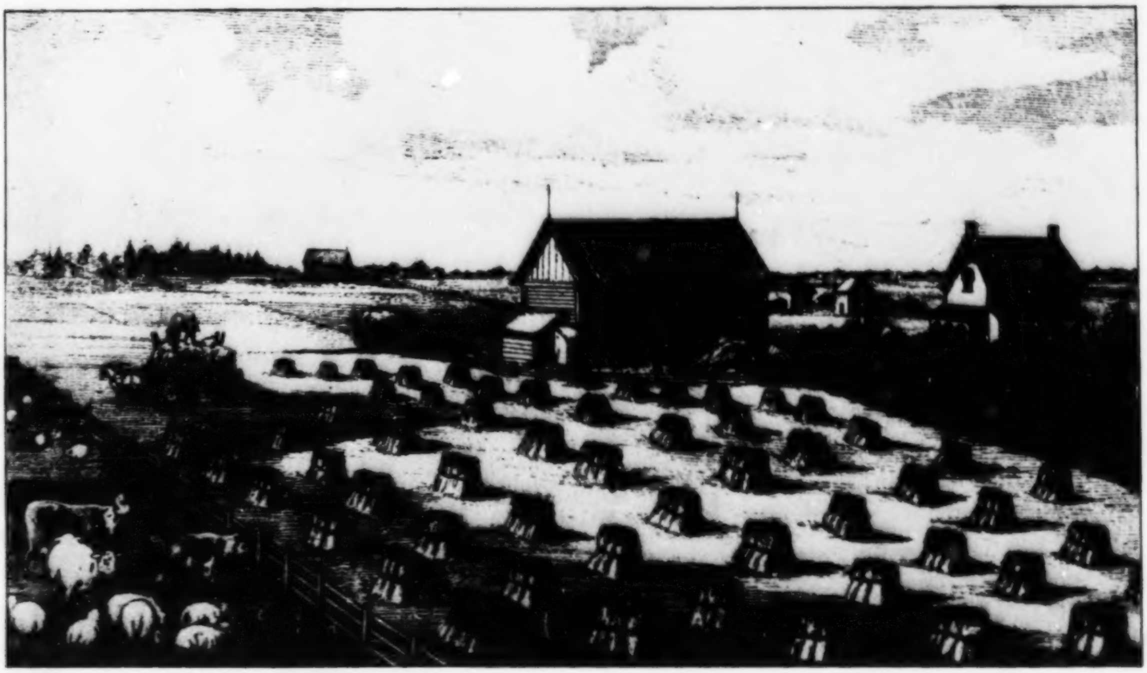
Building a log stable on a homestead at Birds Hill, 1884.

A settlement of the 1880s.



A rear view of St. Andrew's Church and grounds as it appeared around the turn of the century.





Late Historic Period farmsteads.

The Late Historic Period is characterized by a transition in the type of artifacts when compared with assemblages from earlier periods. This is especially the case at Late Historic sites that date after the completion of the CPR rail line. The railroad allowed for direct transportation links between the planning district and commercial and industrial centres in eastern Canada and the United States.

Another technological innovation that occurred during the 1880-to-1920 period was the progressive change in the manufacturing technique of certain articles, largely due to mechanized mass production. One of the most important of these changes was the development of the tin can. After 1883, cans were machine-manufactured and by 1897 were being produced by processes that ensured maximum sanitary conditions. The introduction of tinned foods was an important innovation during this time, as it alleviated the need for adequate food storage facilities and, to a certain extent, altered the restricted seasonal availability of certain foodstuffs.

The manufacture of glass bottles also steadily improved during the Late Historic Period. Bottles were made semi-automatically by the 1890s and after 1903 were totally machine-made. Vessels such as liquor bottles, condiment bottles, pop bottles, food preservation jars and decorated glassware vessels are commonly found at sites. Trademarks on these vessels show eastern Canadian, American and British manufacturers as well as local merchants such as E.L. Drewery and the Blackwood brothers.

The most distinguishing, or diagnostic, characteristic of a Late Historic assemblage is the large number of plain white earthenware ceramic sherds usually recovered. Most vessels are of British origin and include manufacturers such as J. and G. Meakin, Alfred Meakin, W. and E. Corn and the Johnson brothers. Vessels recovered include cups, saucers, plates, bowls and platters. These vessels were either plain or decorated by a moulded design located on the vessel brim. One of the most frequently recovered patterns was the "WHEAT" design, used by a number of Canadian and British potters. Other moulded designs usually include either a floral or geometric motif. Transfer printed earthenwares are also found at sites of this period.

Another characteristic of assemblages dating to the 1870 to 1920 period is the inclusion of patent medicine bottles. These are clear, square or rectangular bottles that were supposed to contain cure-alls for a number of maladies. One such bottle advertised that its contents were good for internal and external ailments. A second company boasted that its product was "fit for man or beast". Most medicines usually contained varying percentages of alcohol and/or narcotics such as opium. Brand names commonly recovered include "DR. CHASE'S SYROP OF LINSEED AND TURPENTINE", "PERRY DAVIS' VEGETABLE PAINKILLER", "DR. S.N. THOMAS ECLECTIC OIL" and "DR. FOWLER'S EXTRACT".

Architectural styles also changed during the Late period. For example, the Red River frame construction gave way to the large, multi-storeyed, sawn-lumber frame type with gable ends. This change in construction technique was probably due to the influx of eastern Canadian and European settlers who brought with them the building styles used in their homelands. Log structures were also still built, and these usually featured horizontal logs held in place by notched joints at each corner. It was also during the Late Historic Period that the round, wire nail became widely used.

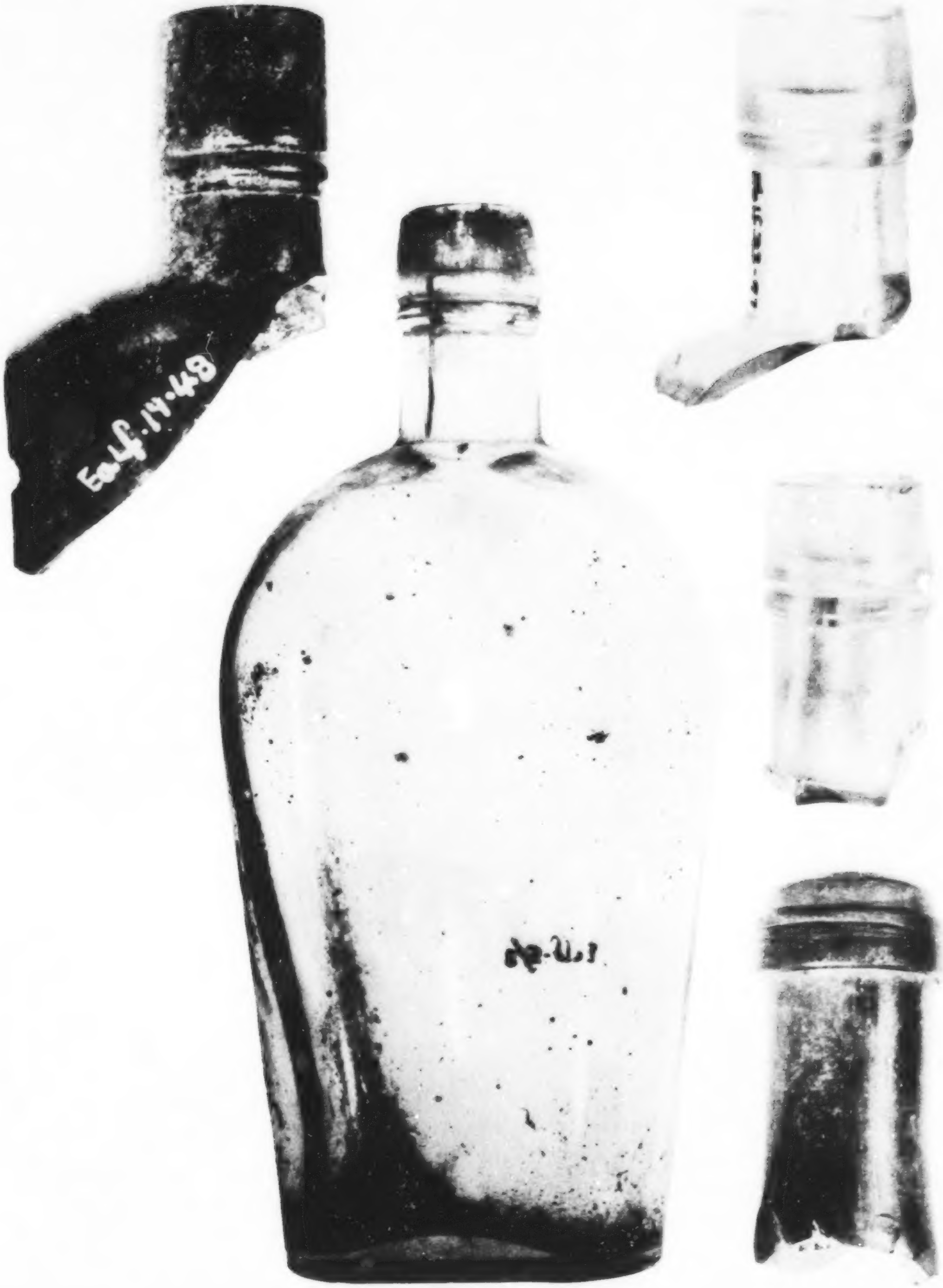
The pliability of the material allowed for reutilization, a definite asset over the square, machine-cut nails used previously.

Weaponry manufacture also improved during this period. The breechloading rifle came into use and included the .22 calibre rifle, the Winchester repeating rifle and the British Snider-Enfield rifle. The latter weapon was used by the Canadian militia and the North West Mounted Police.

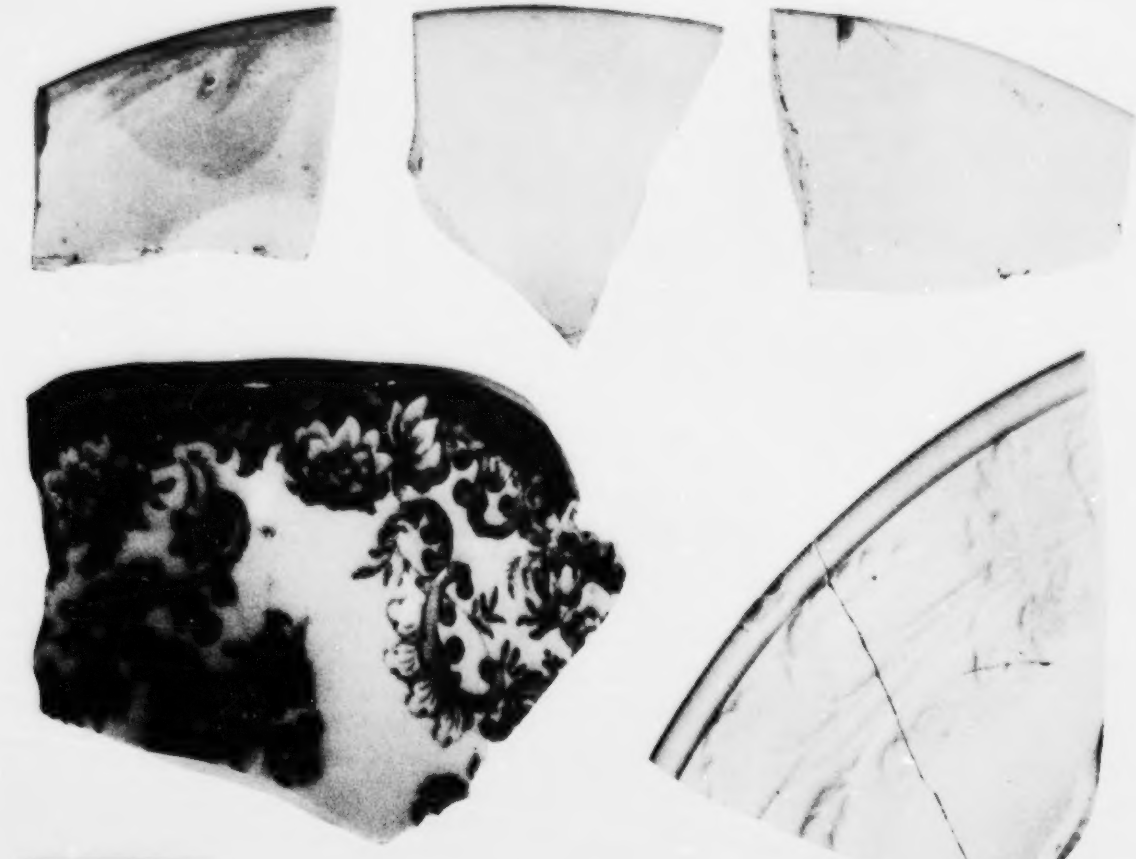
Clothing artifacts consist of buttons, buckles, braces clasps and shoe parts. Small, machine-manufactured metal buttons usually dominate the clothing assemblage and there is a significant decrease in the use of bone and large brass buttons that were so characteristic of the Middle Historic Period.

Toys are also commonly found, especially ceramic doll parts, marbles and porcelain dishes. The doll parts are either of solid construction, such as small figurines, or are hollow with detachable parts. The marbles are made of either stone, clay or glass and were imported from both Germany and the United States. Stone and clay marbles were painted a monochrome colour while the glass type frequently contained polychrome swirls through the central matrix. Toy dishes usually consist of small cups, saucers, plates and bowls.

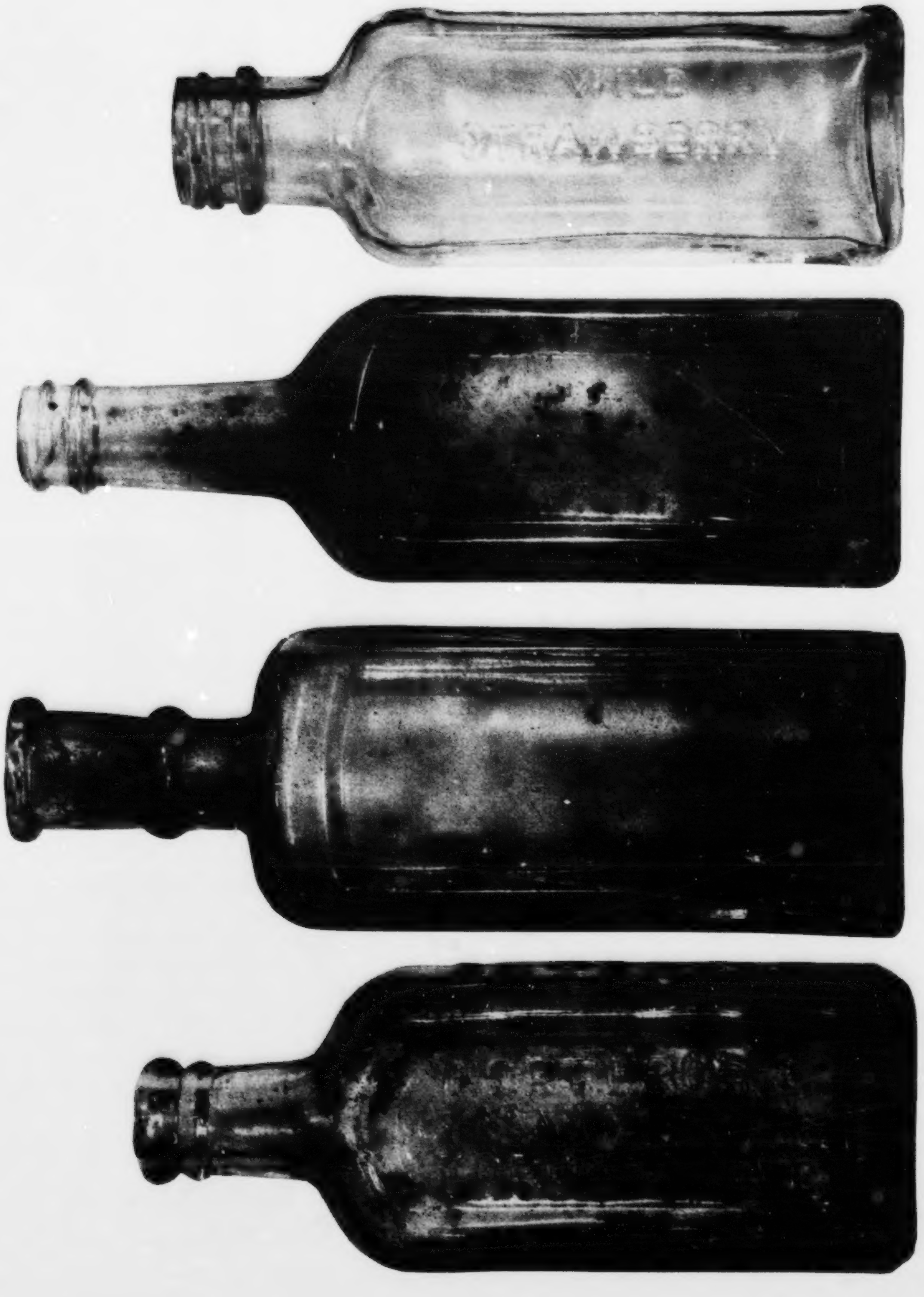
Given the above characteristics of the Late Historic Period, it is not unusual to find a Late Historic site in most areas of the planning district. The sites usually contain kitchen and architectural materials scattered across a plowed field and relate to refuse material deposited adjacent to the original toft or in areas where structures were demolished.



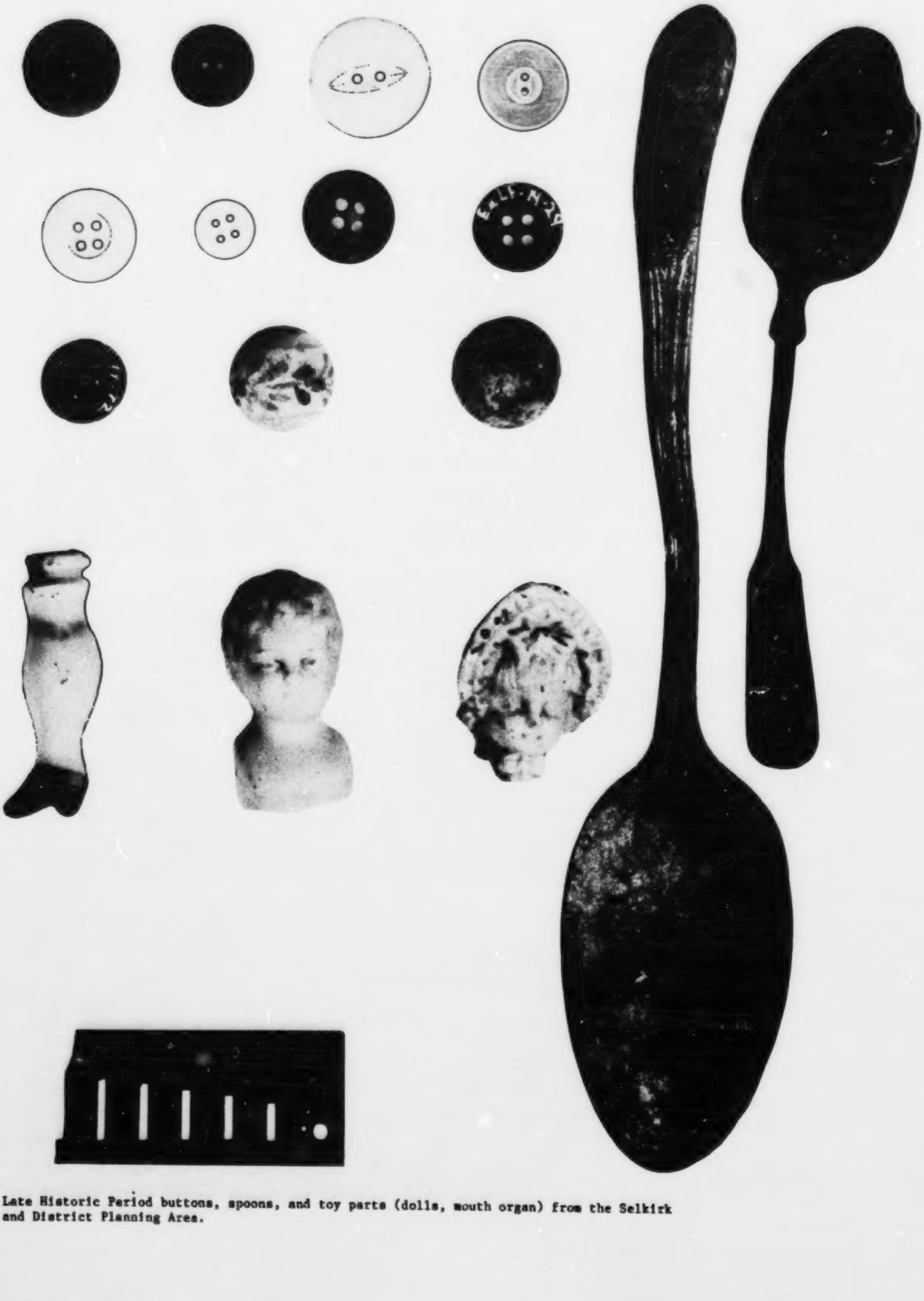
Late Historic Period liquor bottle glass from the Selkirk and District Planning Area.



Late Historic Period ceramics from the Selkirk and District Planning Area.


WILD
STRAWBERRY

Late Historic Period medicine bottles from the Selkirk and District Planning Area.



Late Historic Period buttons, spoons, and toy parts (dolls, mouth organ) from the Selkirk and District Planning Area.

SUMMARIES AND CONCLUSIONS

During the archaeological survey of the Selkirk and District Planning Area, a total of thirty-one sites was inventoried. The entire planning area could not be examined, but it is assumed that an adequate portion of the area was investigated to generate at least preliminary conclusions pertaining to heritage resource management and cultural information. From these cultural data we were able to determine the quality and historical significance of these and other sites in the district.

Most sites have been altered through agriculture and/or land development. Those located adjacent to the Red River were affected by erosion through ice and wave action as well. The sites varied in age from Early Prehistoric to Late Historic. Prehistoric assemblages were usually located in close proximity to river or creek channels and most were probably the remnants of small campsites. Depending on the period, the prehistoric sites consisted primarily of a number of stone chips and/or tools and, in the instance of Late Prehistoric sites, pottery.

Historic sites relate to homestead activities, and most sites along the Red River dated to the Middle and Late Historic periods. Sites found on the peripheries of the river lot parishes dated exclusively to the Late Historic Period. Assemblages were primarily composed of kitchen-related articles such as ceramics and bottle glass as well as of architectural items such as nails and window glass. Artifacts were usually scattered across the surface of the site and, on river lots, the bulk of the material was located along the upper river terrace. It is not surprising that artifacts of monetary value are rarely found when it is considered that site assemblages consist of broken and discarded objects that site inhabitants no longer used. A good rule of thumb is that artifacts considered valuable today were also considered valuable by the individuals who used them. It is the information from these artifacts that is invaluable, as it forms one of the few tangible links that we have with our past.

Contact was made with only a few collectors, and it appears that a small number of private collections exists in the planning area. Citizens were contacted throughout the planning area to elicit information about local collections, as well as to promote awareness in programs of Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Recreation. Response was generally favourable and individuals were usually receptive to the goals of the research project. The 1984 survey was an initial step in completing the objectives of the Historic Resources Branch within the planning area as outlined in the overview of this report. Those objectives partially completed were: (1) the identification of archaeological sites, and (2) establishing a data base for determining the quality and historic significance of sites.

As a result, we are now fairly sure that the Selkirk and District Planning Area has been occupied continuously by human beings for at least 8500 years. Unfortunately, this story is still rather poorly known and of course we want to improve our knowledge in any way we can. The information we require to do so lies on and under the surface of the ground in the form of archaeological sites; and we have to study these sites to retrieve that information. There are ways and means of doing this, but we obviously cannot study these sites all at once, and so we study what we can and attempt to preserve the others for when the opportunity arises.

It is the position of the Manitoba Government that this 8500-year-long human history is part of the heritage of all Manitobans, and hence the government has a responsibility to ensure that the archaeological sites and objects are used to the benefit of all. Legislation has been enacted so that we will have the opportunity to learn of findings that may prove useful in the writing of Manitoba's history. It is a fact that most of the archaeological sites that have been scientifically studied in Manitoba were originally found by local people and reported to the authorities. The fact that we were able to publish the book you are reading right now is due in large part to the assistance of co-operative local people in reporting their findings to us. The province is just too big and the number of archaeologists too small to survey the entire area themselves. A partnership between the public and the archaeologist is absolutely necessary if we are to learn more about both the ancient and recent history of Manitoba.

One of the central purposes of the legislation is to ensure that the removal of objects from the ground is done in a proper fashion, since it is not only the artifacts themselves, but also the information we can get from them, that is of prime importance. If the field work is not done carefully, that information may become lost to us. One of the real problems with archaeological sites is they are "non-renewable" -- once they are disturbed, they are disturbed forever. So we have to do it right the first time. Even in places like plowed fields, where disturbance has already taken place by farm machinery, it may still be possible to note how different objects cluster together, and this may comprise an important piece of information to the archaeologist who wants to "interpret" that site for posterity. If all such findings and studies are duly reported to a central agency, such as the Historic Resources Branch, the results can in due course be included in a book like this one for the benefit of everyone. That is the basic philosophy behind the legislation and the Province's archaeological program.

In closing, we wish to impress upon our readers the fact that most of the story we have told in this book is based on very slim evidence. Thus far, very few archaeological sites have been scientifically excavated and analyzed in the planning area. Much of the information we have used to develop the prehistory of our area is drawn from places outside of the district, with many of our conclusions being based on geographical, historical and anthropological, rather than archaeological, information. The archaeological record thus far accumulated from the planning area mainly comprises surface finds, and these cannot be expected to reveal all there is to know about the region's prehistory. It remains to "anchor" all of these surface finds with more carefully excavated, radiocarbon-dated sites within the planning area. It is hoped that we have convinced our readers that a full and more complete story remains to be told -- provided the sites are still there when the opportunity arises to study them. To ensure that such will be the case, we ask the citizens of the planning area to assist the Historic Resources Branch in its efforts to preserve and protect the archaeological heritage of the district. For further details, contact

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